Ann Arbor Observer

February 2008

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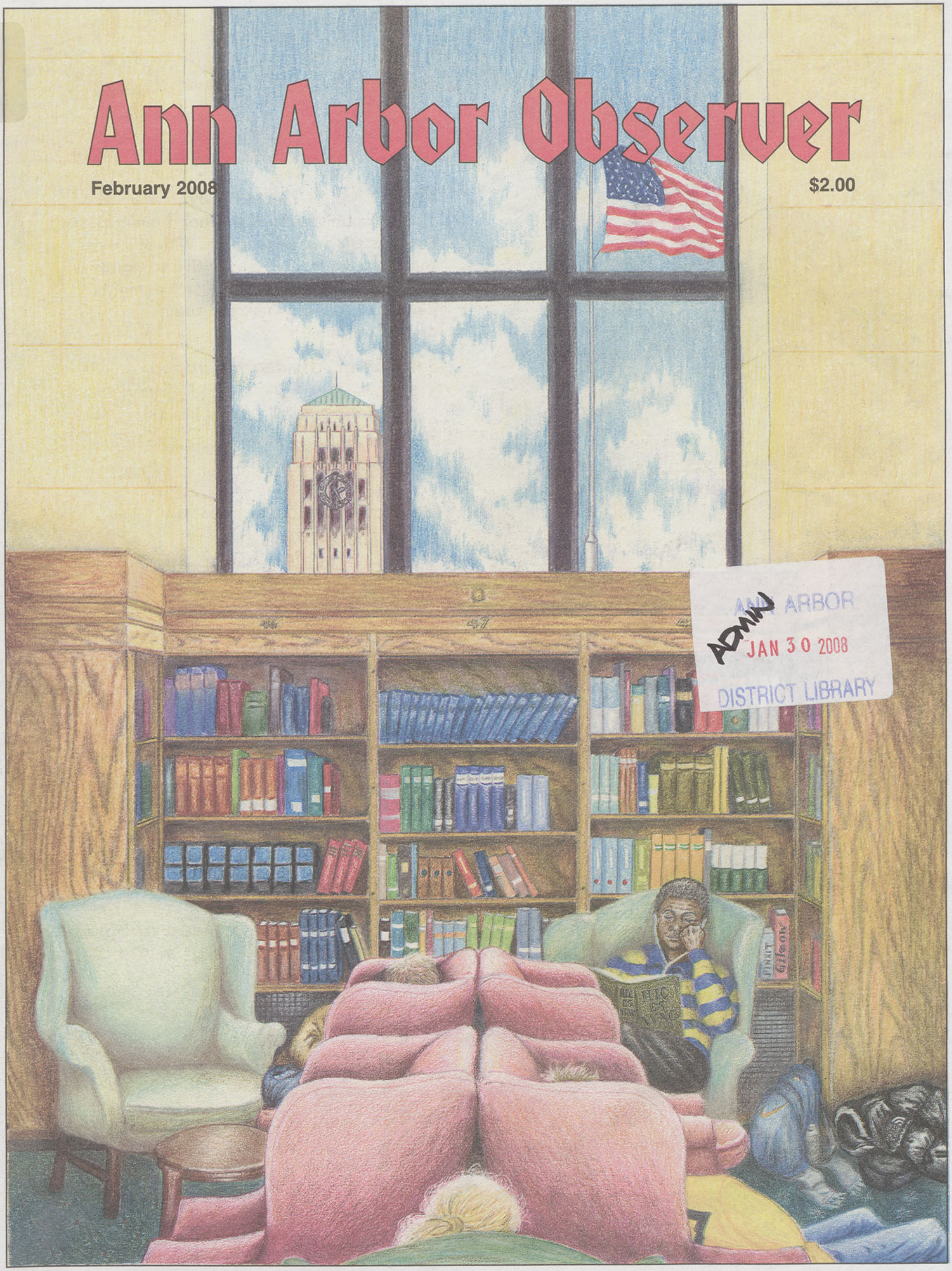

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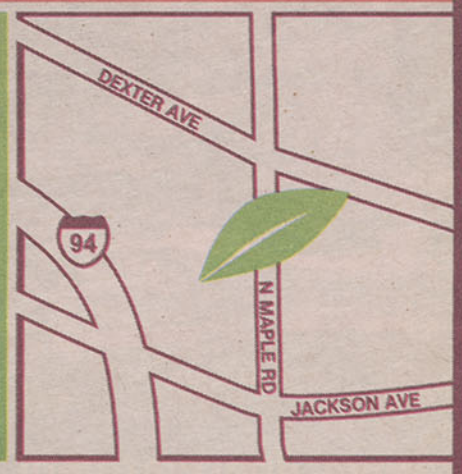
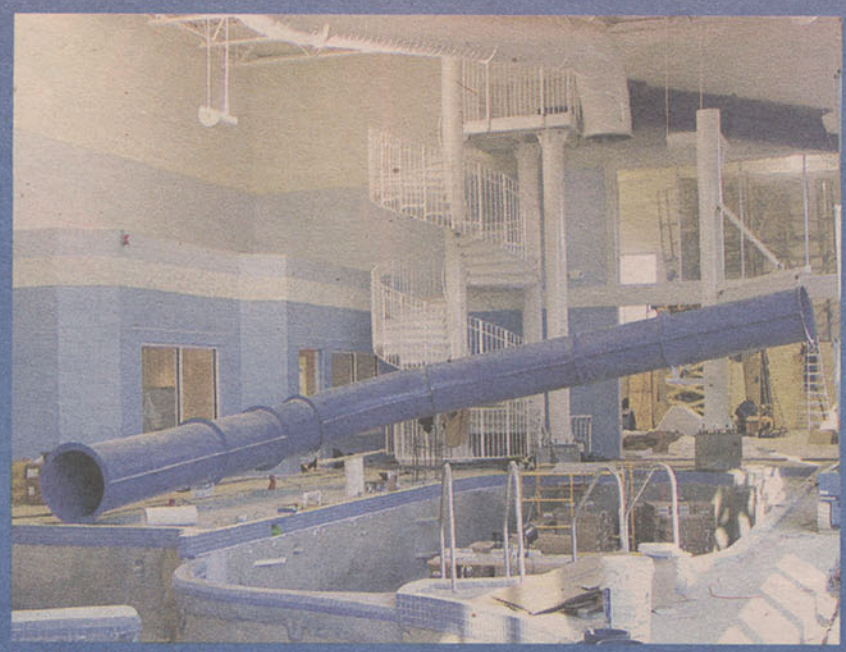


Photos taken January 15, 2008

In-Pool Play Structure



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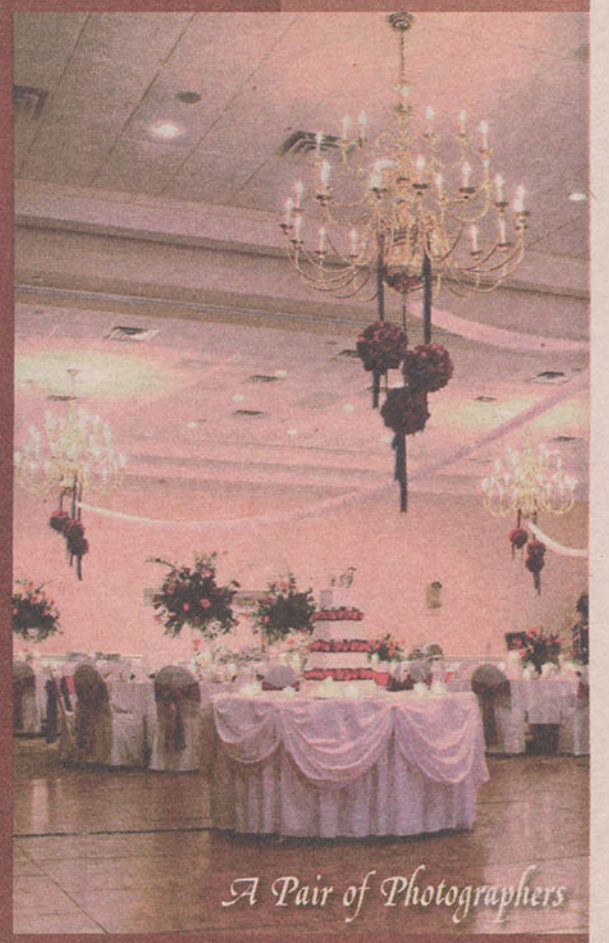

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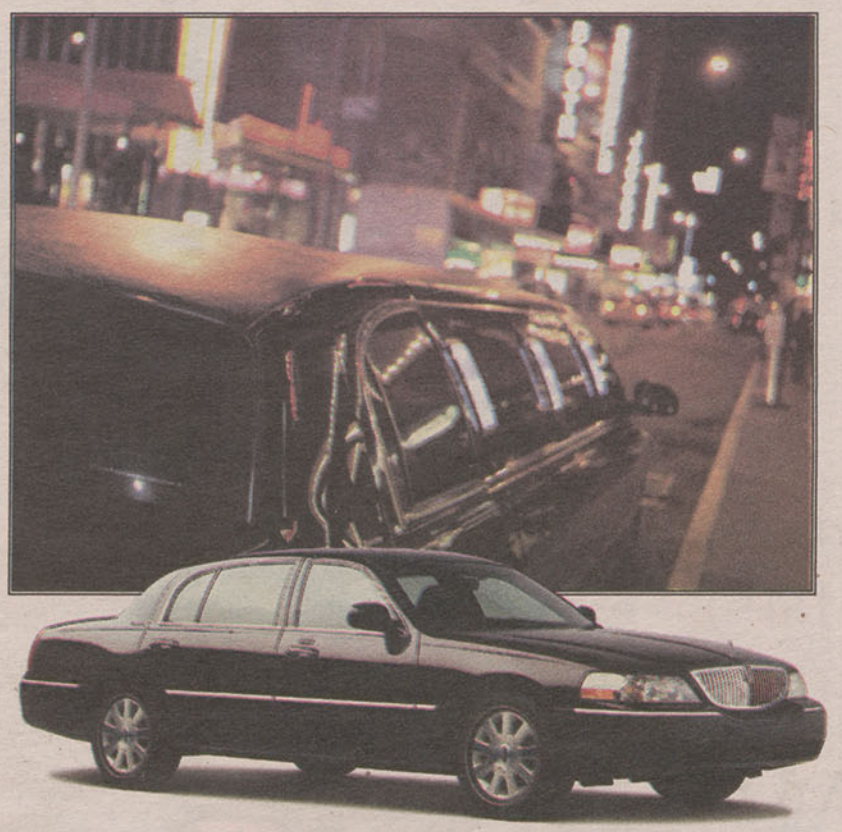
Night on the Town ...



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Ann Arbor Observer

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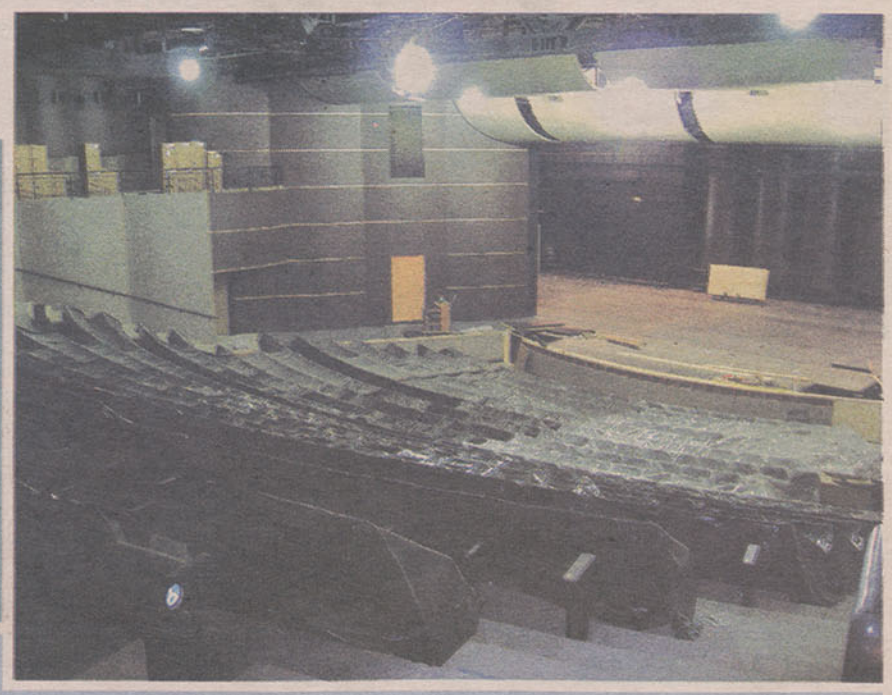

OPENING WITH 9TH GRADERS IN FALL 2008 – CLASS OF 2012.

February 19, 2008 7:00 p.m.
CURRICULUM NIGHT AT SKYLINE HIGH
If you are interested in enrolling at Skyline for 9th grade this fall, join the Skyline staff for a chance to see Skyline High and learn about the course selections, program offerings and registration process.

Open Enrollment Opportunities until March 3, 2008
125 open seats are available to any current 8th grade student living within the Ann Arbor Public School boundaries. Applications are available online at **www.a2skyline.org**

March 3, 2008 Applications Due
If more then 125 students apply for the open enrollment seats, AAPS will conduct a lottery from all applicants on March 10, 2008. The results will be posted at the AAPS Balas Building, 2555 S. State Street by 3:00 p.m.on March 10th.

March 24, 2008
All open enrolled students must confirm their acceptance to Skyline High to secure a seat for Fall 2008 enrollment.

AA SKYLINE EAGLES

For more information on Skyline High programs please visit **www.a2skyline.org**

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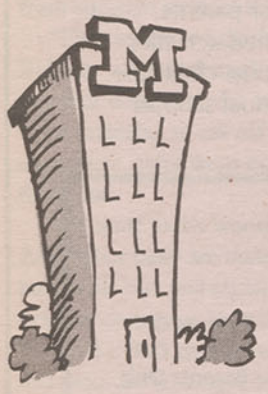
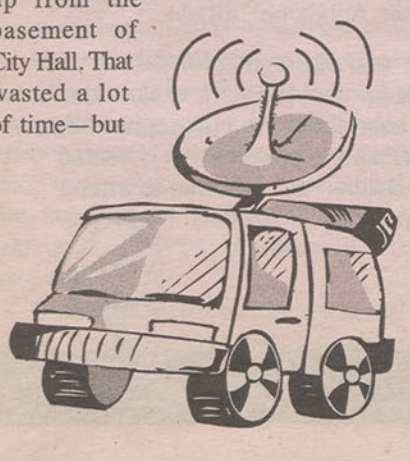
Big Block M: From Fuller Road, you can't miss it: a pair of giant white Block Ms, one atop each of the brick-faced towers that jut out from the north side of University Hospital. Smaller letters on the towers' east- and west-facing sides spell out the hospital's name. Bland and utilitarian by day, the Block Ms come alive at night, when lights behind the letters create a dramatic, glowing silhouette.

Orders for the high-profile insignia came from the very top. According to a source in the U-M Health System's PR office, the proposal is credited jointly to university president Mary Sue Coleman and health system CEO Robert Kelch. Similar signs are planned for the Cancer Center, the new Cardiovascular Center, the new Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital, and the expanded Kellogg Eye Center. They're part of a "constant effort to improve wayfinding for patients," our PR source says—especially needed since all but Kellogg share the same address, 1500 East Medical Center Drive.



That's true, but not new: the hospital has stood unmarked for more than two decades. Why the sudden urge to fly the U-M flag? It could be a coincidence, but the signs went up just as St. Joseph Mercy Hospital was completing its new East Tower. The rival hospital is topped by a Mercy Health logo so big it can be seen all the way to US-23.

CSI Ann Arbor: Detective Greg Jones says that in his career with the Ann Arbor Police Department, he's seen two things greatly change the work he does: "The two biggest tools that have helped us are the Nextel cell phones we use at crime scenes, and this brand new crime van, for its efficiency." The white Dodge Sprinter now parked outside City Hall is the payoff of a smart and thrifty lobbying campaign by Jones and fellow detective Brian Zasadny. The minivan they previously used for crime scene investigations was too small to carry all their equipment: they had to hunt down the gear they needed and lug it up from the basement of City Hall. That wasted a lot of time—but the department couldn't afford the $100,000-plus tab for a fully equipped CSI vehicle. The detectives' solution: they gave up both the minivan and another car to free up enough money to buy the Sprinter—which in stripped form cost just $37,000. After adding racks and storage compartments, they stocked the high-roofed van with all the equipment needed to investigate anything from a simple burglary to a death scene. "Now we throw on our coats," says Jones, "and we're out the back door."



Michigan Flyer: Indian Trails is filling the airport transportation gap—and in the process, it's created a new bus route to East Lansing. The Owosso-based company's Michigan Flyer takes US-127 south to Jackson and heads east on I-94, picking up airport-bound Ann Arborites on the way. On the reverse trip, all the off-busing travelers from DTW leave plenty of space for a ride to East Lansing. Indian Trails charges the same as Greyhound for the trip north ($15), but it's quicker—an hour and a half instead of two hours. And there's no contest at all on the return leg—from Lansing to Ann Arbor, Greyhound takes twice as long and charges twice as much.

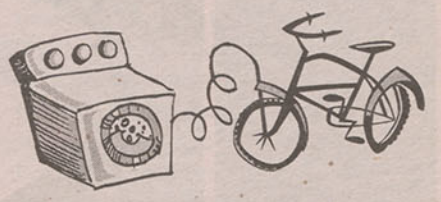
Indian Trails buses are nicer, too, with complimentary bottled water and fast, free Wi-Fi—at least on a lightly populated morning run to East Lansing. On the return trip that afternoon, business travelers and MSU students half-filled the Flyer and put the kibosh on the Wi-Fi: at least a dozen computers were connected, making email tediously slow. With a young woman talking loudly on her cell phone—"I've been in a drunken haze this past week"—it was a relief when the Flyer arrived at the Four Points Sheraton precisely on time.

Easy willpower: When Kate M. Keever walked into Rena Greenberg's weight-loss seminar at St. Joe's last fall, she had no idea what to expect. When it concluded, she was still somewhat mystified. "I walked out of there wondering about my experience," she says. "I knew I had not fallen asleep, and yet I couldn't remember a thing she said during the hypnosis section." It's a common reaction to Greenberg's eclectic sessions. Greenberg's recent book *The Craving Cure* recounts how a serious illness in her twenties drove her to look for a healthier diet—and ignited a lifelong passion for understanding how people's minds can influence their feelings about food and themselves. The $79 seminars fuse hypnosis with self-love

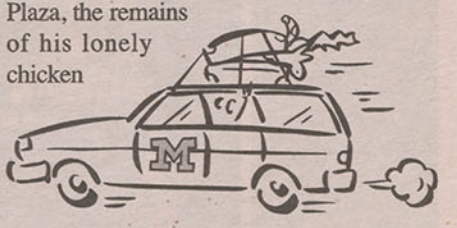
messages, physical exercise, breathing techniques, and nutritional education. Whatever the combination, Keever says, it worked for her: "I actually eat whatever I want, but I don't crave junk food any longer and have stopped overeating." She's lost twenty-five pounds, and she says she's looking forward to her free follow-up visit when Greenberg conducts several seminars at St. Joe's in February.

Liberty lagoon: A thirty-foot-high, 140-foot-long water slide weaves in and out of a giant, sky-blue room. Natural light floods a watery play structure that looks as if it just popped out of a Dr. Seuss book. But to try the indoor water park, you'll have to join the Liberty Athletic Club. It's the latest evolution of the west-side facility, which started out as an indoor tennis court and now encompasses everything from personal training to an on-site spa. Co-owner Judy Eisner (whose husband, Brian, was for many years the U-M tennis coach) says she's been researching water parks for several years; they've been working on theirs since last June, and expect to open in February. It's part of a broader effort to offer more options for kids: the club is also building a climbing wall and adding new classes and activities like "warrior games"—a combination of dodgeball, capture the flag, flag football, and paintball. Why all the kid-love? Kathy Ernsberger, who does sales and marketing for Liberty, says the club has always been family oriented and wants to encourage kids to be physically active while their parents are working out (or even getting a "healing hot stone massage"). Ernsberger says the club is hoping the new options will attract more members—families pay $600 to join, then $193 a month. As long as kids are at least nine years old and have a parent on site, they'll be free to lounge in the lagoon all on their own.

Airing dirty laundry: Playful citizen-journalist "Homeless Dave" Askins interviews people while they're riding a teeter-totter, and then posts transcripts on his website, homelessdave.com. Now he's making a modest splash in green technology, too. Despite his nickname, Askins actually owns a house on the Old West Side—where, it turns out, he's hooked up a stationary bicycle to spin-dry his laundry and charge the battery on his cell phone. Askins made a video of his set-up for the Innovate or Die pedal-powered machine contest. Though he didn't win, more than 2,000 people already have viewed the brief clip online. Most easily found by going to youtube.com and searching for "bicycle washing," it's well made, and it's fun in the same way a film-strip in a science class is (it helps to have a fondness for close-ups of pulleys and V-belts). "Generating electricity by pedaling is not a winning proposition if you were going to satisfy your household needs," Askins admits. But his rig really could power a laptop or a TV set—or even, as he proved onstage at the Elbow Room during Mittenfest II in December, a bubble machine.



Overheard: *December 15, 2007.* A vigorous, compact thirty-something man is pacing around the otherwise empty Chicken House at Stone Plaza, the remains of his lonely chicken dinner on a red plastic tray. He's barking tersely into his cell phone: "Bill says . . . Got to seal the deal . . . Bill says . . . It's been in the papers . . . It's gone on too long . . . It would be embarrassing if we don't do it . . . Mary Sue . . . Bill . . . Bill."



The next day, West Virginia football coach Rich Rodriguez announced he was leaving for Michigan.

What does it cost?

$2.99—Thirty-two Valentine's cards suitable for an elementary-school class, plus a card for the teacher, at Happy House Gifts

$20—Nine-inch heart-shaped plate, studio time to paint it with a design of your choice, and firing, at Rainbow Creation

$71.55—Vase containing a dozen long-stemmed roses, delivered to your sweetheart on Valentine's Day, from Lily's Garden

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Ann Arbor Public Schools

Preparing Ann Arbor's children for future success

'08 Kindergarten Round-Ups

Come hear about the kindergarten options available in the Ann Arbor Public School district, including;

- Half-day kindergarten
- Extended-day kindergarten – half-day kindergarten program with half-day child care with the same teacher
- Full-day kindergarten at some schools
- Before- and after-school care

Each school holds a kindergarten round-up.

If you have questions about your child's school, please call 994-2236 or go to the district's web site, **www.aaps.k12.mi.us**, and log in your street name to find out your child's elementary school.

Kindergarten round-up is primarily an informational meeting for parents. Some schools have planned activities for students and/or optional child care. Please contact the individual schools for more details.

Abbot	3/6/08	6:30 p.m.
Allen	3/6/08	6:30 p.m.
Angell	3/6/08	6:30 p.m.
Ann Arbor Open	2/20/08	7:00 p.m. - Parents Only
Ann Arbor Open	3/9/08	1:00 p.m. - Parents Only
Ann Arbor Open	3/15/08	10:00 a.m. - Parents Only
Bach	2/21/08	7:00 p.m.
Bach	5/8/08	4:00 p.m. - Students Visit
Bryant	2/1/08	2:00 p.m.
Bryant	2/7/08	6:00 p.m.
Burns Park	2/19/08	7:00 p.m.
Burns Park	2/21/08	1:30 p.m. - Students Visit
Carpenter	3/18/08	7:00 p.m.
Dicken	2/18/08	7:00 p.m. - Parents Only
Dicken	3/13/08	4:00 p.m. - Students Visit
Eberwhite	2/6/08	6:30 p.m.
Haisley	2/19/08	6:30 p.m.
King	2/20/08	6:00 p.m.
Lakewood	3/11/08	7:00 p.m.
Lawton	3/11/08	6:00 p.m.
Logan	1/29/08	6:00 p.m.
Mitchell	3/11/08	7:00 p.m.
Northside	2/20/08	6:00 p.m.
Pittsfield	2/21/08	6:30 p.m.
Thurston	3/6/08	6:00 p.m.
Wines	2/21/08	7:00 p.m.

AAPS Tuition Pre-School Open Houses

If you have a child who will be 4 years old by December 1, 2008, we'd love to have you visit the Ann Arbor Public Schools' tuition pre-school program. We are pleased to offer this program at two outstanding new locations. Children in the program benefit from a rich developmental curriculum, certified early childhood teachers, and support services that are uncommon in a traditional pre-school setting. The program operates according to the school district calendar, with flexible scheduling options available. If you'd like to learn more about this exemplary program, please visit one of our open houses:

Thurston Elementary Pre-School Open House:
Thursday, February 21 at 6:30–7:30 p.m.
2300 Prairie, Ann Arbor, 48105

Allen Elementary Pre-School Open House:
Thursday, March 6 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.
2560 Towner, Ann Arbor, 48104

These open houses are an informal opportunity to meet the staff, explore the space and hear about the philosophy and program. While the presentation is geared for adults, children are welcome to attend with their parents.

All the best

Ann Arbor Public Schools • **www.a2schools.org** • 734.994.2200

Meet the Bouncers

"We use the least amount of force possible," says Rob Bell, doorman at the 8 Ball Saloon.

Bell, who wears a ready smile and a T-shirt over a barrel chest, is the first person patrons meet at the bar beneath the Blind Pig. He recognizes many regulars as he checks IDs, and he says he likes the friendly, almost family feeling of working there. But if things—or individuals—get out of hand, he turns from sociable to strict in seconds.

"First we try to talk them out of it," Bell says. If that doesn't work, he'll call on other doormen who work at the downtown mainstay to cut off the inebriated customers, calm them down, or throw them out.

Welcome to the world of bar security. In Ann Arbor there are bouncers at perhaps half of all bars and nightclubs, from student dance venues to Irish pubs to sports bars. Like Bell, many are college students, and most are no longer called bouncers—even though the job does call for bouncing out intoxicated or unruly customers. And many are so young they can't buy a drink at the establishments they guard: though he's been a doorman for three years, Rob Bell is just twenty years old.

Many doormen are trained to be polite and respectful to guests, and to welcome anyone who's not obviously drunk or high. Yet they often are hired for their heft and strength as much as their customer-service skills—and though several bar owners say they have had female door attendants, the Observer could not locate one currently working in Ann Arbor.

"We're big teddy bears," says Greg Turner, the head doorman at the Necto, which had several burly bouncers at the door checking IDs one recent Friday night. The Necto, a huge multifloor bar and dance venue, has fourteen security people wandering through its many rooms on busy nights. "We keep trouble out and have fun," Turner says. "[We] keep the environment safe for all patrons."

That sometimes means giving a tipsy student a glass of water and encouragement to go home—as well as making sure the pubgoer has a way to get there, says Turner, who's worked at Necto for two years and is a senior at the U-M's business school. He hopes to go from bouncer to investment banker after he graduates.

If there's an argument or fight, Turner says, the security crew first tries to talk to the parties, separating them and calming them down. He and others say they rarely have to physically escort a customer out—that happens only if the person is belligerent, won't follow instructions, or won't stop drinking.

Bouncers tend to be busiest after midnight, on football weekends, and during Art Fair in July, bar managers say. For Conor O'Neill's, St. Patrick's Day is crazy, with customers starting to line up at 6 in the morning for the 7 a.m. opening. Others say the busiest times are Saturday nights—with or without football.

MARK BIALEK

"We're big teddy bears," says Necto head doorman Greg Turner. A senior in the U-M business school, Turner hopes to go from bouncer to investment banker when he graduates.

Many bouncers work part time, and weekend nights are the norm—in fact, only a handful of bars in Ann Arbor have any security staff or doormen on duty during the week. And many—from Arbor Brewing to Grizzly Peak to Vinology—have no designated security personnel, relying on the manager or another staffer to handle the rare problem.

For some, being a bouncer is a temporary job. For others, it's the first step up the career ladder. Jeff Rouse started as a bouncer at Bar Louie in Flint last year. "I did nothing but work as hard as I could," he says, filling in for busboys, servers, and even the bartender. Now he's an assistant manager at the new Bar Louie on Liberty.

Rouse expects to kick out fewer customers here than in Flint—but he also says that as students discover the new location, he's seeing more customers "get extremely drunk, and they are not going to listen to reason." That's when he calls one of the bouncers—er, doormen—into action.

Stan the Milkman

Stan Austin's truck is white with black spots—like a Holstein cow.

Every Thursday around 8 a.m., Austin exits I-94 onto Ann Arbor–Saline Road. He's come directly from Calder Dairy in Lincoln Park, and at dawn on a bright crisp sunny day, the glass bottles in the cargo space clank against each other with every turn and pothole—225 half gallons and eighteen quarts of milk, as well as yogurt, cream, orange juice, butter, cottage cheese, eggs, ice cream, and bread. The side streets are still slick from snow a few days before, and the truck slides around a little as Austin's route leads him to the Old West Side.

For a $1.50 weekly fee, "Stan the Milkman" delivers as large or as small an order as the customer needs, at prices not far from retail (currently milk is $2.59 for a half gallon). "I'm a mailman, milkman, accountant—it's not just delivering milk," Austin says. Besides doing the heavy lifting, he also leaves bills, picks up checks, modifies orders, and sorts out the accounts.

Most of the time he delivers to a cooler on a front porch. But if the customer requests, he drops things at the back porch, carries them up to the fifth floor of a retirement home, or even pops in the back door and leaves them in the fridge.

Until recently, home delivery seemed headed for extinction. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nearly 30 percent of consumers had milk delivered to their homes in 1963. In 2005, it was fewer than 0.5 percent. But there are signs of a turnaround, and Calder is actually growing—it began deliveries in Ann Arbor, Dexter, Chelsea, and Saline about three years ago. Now three drivers deliver to the city on Tuesdays and Thursdays, on five routes.

Founded by air force vet William Calder in 1946, the dairy expanded under his son John to include a 200-acre farm near Carleton, not far from the southeast corner of Washtenaw County.

"Our cows are happy cows. They get maternity leave. They have their own nutritionist," says Calder's Nicola Noble. "Feeding these cows is quite a science." Calder grows its own feed, a mix of grain, hay, silage (corn plants that are ground up in the field), and haylage (hay that is chopped up rather than baled). The dinner each cow gets varies with her age and stage of lactation.

SUSAN FINLEY

Home milk delivery seemed headed for extinction, but Calder's Stan Austin represents a local comeback.

"Calder isn't organic," says Noble, "but we like to think we're right in the middle. People are secure that we know our cows." The "girls"—Holstein, Brown Swiss, and Jersey cows, as well as mixes of those three breeds—have access to pasture and freedom of movement, are treated with antibiotics only if they are sick, and receive no hormones or feed supplements.

The cows are milked eight at a time in the milking parlor at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. (visitors can watch the afternoon session). "Each cow milks at her own speed," Noble explains, with most taking three to four minutes. It takes about two hours to milk all 110, with a yield of 600 gallons of milk. From the cow, the milk travels less than 100 feet through a pipe and chiller into a milk tanker, which takes it to be processed in Lincoln Park. There, bottles of skim, 2 percent, homogenized, natural, chocolate, and strawberry milk, as well as butter, cottage cheese, and yogurt, are put on trucks for home and wholesale delivery.

As the day warms up, Stan the Milkman still has hours to go on his route, though the roads are looking clearer. "Customers are spoiled at Calder," he says, and he'd know: he's doing the spoiling.

Hot Chocolates

Local gurus reveal their favorites.

Nancy Biehn, owner of Sweet Gem Confections, rolls truffles and other chocolates five days a week from her shop and kitchen inside Morgan & York on Packard. Trays of half-finished Aztec spiced hearts, made with cayenne pepper, ancho chili, and dark chocolate, sit on the big worktable. Available only around Valentine's Day, "they're amazing," Biehn says proudly. "I sell thousands." Among her own chocolates, her current must-have is the passion-fruit-with-honey-butter truffle—sweet, tart, and bursting with fruitiness. And when she wants to sample other chocolatiers' work, she'll see what's new at Morgan & York, or head over to Zingerman's Next Door for one of her favorite bars from the French company Michel Cluizel.

Zingerman's Detroit Street coffee shop, it turns out, is a sweet destination for many local chocolate makers. It carries Cluizel and twelve other high-end brands—more than 100 different bars in all, says Emily "Duff" Anderson, Zingerman's chocolate expert and buyer. She also has a beautiful array of chocolates and truffles—her personal favorites are a pistachio number from Chocolat Moderne in New York City, which she appreciates for its fresh nutty flavor and dark exterior, and the French Pralus Cuba bar, made with Cuban chocolate. Elsewhere in town,

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MARK BIALEK

Sweet Gem Confections' Nancy Biehn is especially proud of her Aztec dark chocolate hearts.

she's impressed with Nancy Biehn's De Vries dark chocolate truffle—it's made, she explains, from "an extremely interesting and sought-after chocolate"—and she likes to check out the chocolate bar selections at Arbor Farms and Fresh Seasons.

Jason Zurawski, co-owner of Truffle Junkies, likes Anderson's selection of "unique, high-quality bars." But he doesn't have to go out to get good chocolate—it's a key ingredient in his company's handmade truffles. When he's in the mood, Zurawski says, "I've been breaking off chunks of some of our Italians, namely Amedei and Domori."

Zurawski and partner Dov Friedman create unusual truffles like Wasabi, Cinnamonian Chipotle, and Crazy Good Espresso, which they sell wholesale and online. Zurawski says his personal favorite at the moment is the Salty Grey Salt, which despite its name has just "a tinge of saltiness. . . . [It's] an unbelievably rich and complex truffle." Their best-seller: the dark chocolate Royal Ripe Raspberry.

The raspberry truffle is also the best-seller at Schakolad Chocolate Factory downtown, as well as being the favorite of both co-owner Scott Huckestein and his five-year-old son—they like it so much, Huckestein says, that "we put hearts on it." It's 70 percent dark chocolate with a natural raspberry ganache center. The other flavor he expects to be popular for Valentine's Day is the milk chocolate champagne truffle.

"I like to try chocolate from around the world—that's half the fun for me," says Huckestein. So he picks it up when he travels, and he looks for interesting bars when he grocery shops at Whole Foods.

Scott Newell, owner of Big City Small World Bakery on Miller, makes truffles for Valentine's Day—but when he's not making his own, he heads either to Zingerman's Next Door or to Exotic Bakeries on Plymouth Road, which he loves for both its truffles and its baba ghanoush. "It's so good," he says.

At the Chocolate Cafe on Main Street, owner Rob Ponitz is especially fond of his almond chocolate English toffee, which is

softer and quite creamy, and he says his hot chocolates—dark or milk chocolate dipped from his mixing machines, combined with heated milk—are first rate. For a change of pace, he occasionally will head around the corner to Kilwin's on Liberty to enjoy a chocolate or two.

Many chocolate makers say they plan to give their sweethearts sweets for Valentine's Day, usually from their own collections. But Huckestein at Schakolad will buy his wife flowers. "If I come home with chocolate," he explains, "it's too easy."

It Takes a Village

"If I'm a milkmaid, am I selling milk?" an actor asks director Alex Puette.

"For now," Puette says patiently, "you're selling milk, and that may or may not change."

A few minutes later: "But why does a milkmaid say 'What lovely grapes'?"

Watching from the audience seats, the costume designer whispers to the stage manager, "Because you can't have her say 'What lovely jugs.' "

And so begins rehearsal of the twenty-fifth production by the Burns Park Players, a community theater group that has raised more than $175,000 for the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Puette is blocking the big production number that is the prologue to this year's show, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*.

A junior in U-M's musical theater program, Puette is soap-opera-star handsome, with a gorgeous big voice that he lets loose on the chorus numbers. He handles the mostly middle-aged actors with an easy sense of humor—but as he blocks thirty-some actors into tableaux that make full use of the somewhat cramped stage at Tappan Middle School, more than one person worriedly consults the stage manager: "Does he know there will also be twenty-two kids up onstage in this number?" The kids rehearse separately during the day at Burns Park Elementary School, joining the night rehearsals only toward the end.

"Our first purpose is to have fun in the winter," says producer Susan Hurwitz. Trained in social work, Hurwitz joined the Players in 1989. "They were running around looking for something to collect money in—like, they didn't have a shoe box. And I said, 'Can I help with this?' I figured I could at least find a shoe box." The next year she was their producer, and now she also has a paid day job producing plays at Pioneer High ("I must say my M.S.W. comes in quite handy at Pioneer").

Anyone over eighteen who lives in the Burns Park school boundaries can be a Burns Park Player. Members pay $40 dues per family per year, and each member must sell two ads for the program. Students at Burns Park Elementary can be in the show if their parents are members—a rule that leads to a lot of strong-arming by the pint-size stagestruck.

Many members join or stay on long after their kids have passed school age. Former Pioneer principal and teacher union president Bob Galardi has been a fixture since the 1980s. This year he plays Maurice. The oldest member is Fredda Clisham, eighty-eight, playing Enchantress 1. She still walks to rehearsals. When a reporter seems impressed, she retorts, "It's only a twenty-minute walk!"

The sets—designed by FestiFools founder Mark Tucker and sculptor Jeri Rosenberg—are generally agreed to be the pièce de résistance of a Burns Park production. "Every year," says Hurwitz, "Brent Wagner [chair of the U-M's musical theater department] comes to the show and afterwards says, 'Where do you rent your sets and costumes?' And I say, 'We make them, Brent,' and it blows him away."

MYRA KLARMAN

Dan Berland, Mark Tucker, and Liz Rother move a flat during last year's Burns Park Players show. Stagestruck kids sometimes recruit their parents as volunteers.

The challenge this year, Tucker says, was to take a big-budget musical and rescale it to an affordable level. The two designers began work in September, and as usual have already put in hundreds of unpaid hours. "We're such idiots," sighs Rosenberg. Tucker agrees. "Especially you. You've been doing this for how long? Fifty years?" he deadpans. He joined Rosenberg seven years ago.

Beauty and the Beast will have a four-show run on February 8, 9, 15, and 16 (see Events, p. 39). Tickets ($15–$30) go on sale at Morgan & York on January 30, and according to Hurwitz, the shows always sell out in advance. For the first time, the Players will also sell tickets to their final dress rehearsal on Thursday, February 7—$5 at the door only, starting at 7 p.m.

Ticket sales alone "about pay for the production," says Hurwitz. "The profits are right here," she goes on, as she thwacks last year's seventy-page program for Oliver! *With sixty-five pages of ads from local businesses, it helps the show turn a profit of $20,000—all of which the group donates to arts-related programs in the public schools.*

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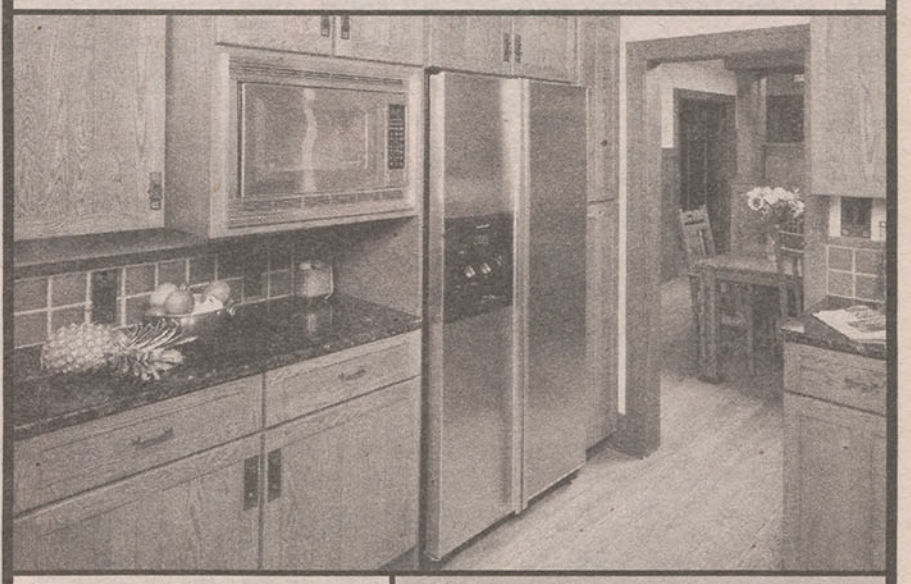

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calls & letters

No fan of Wilkerson

To the Editor:

Although Michael Betzold offered an accurate-enough portrayal of the trial of Catherine Wilkerson [in the January Observer], I wish that he had gone a bit further in detailing Wilkerson's history of often strident synagogue/Jewish-event harassment—to say nothing of that of her "patient"/accomplice Blaine Coleman, who can be seen around town in a "Fuck Israel" sandwich board (into which his wife—another of the case's minor dramatis personae—lovingly straps him on performance days).

If one wants to raise the "jackboot state" spectre, as her defense attorney did, the conduct of Wilkerson and her allies raises far more historically precedented and legitimate fears than does the behavior of the prosecution team. The latter in fact properly portrayed her as an over-the-top inciter, provocateur, and enemy of any "free expression" with which she disagrees.

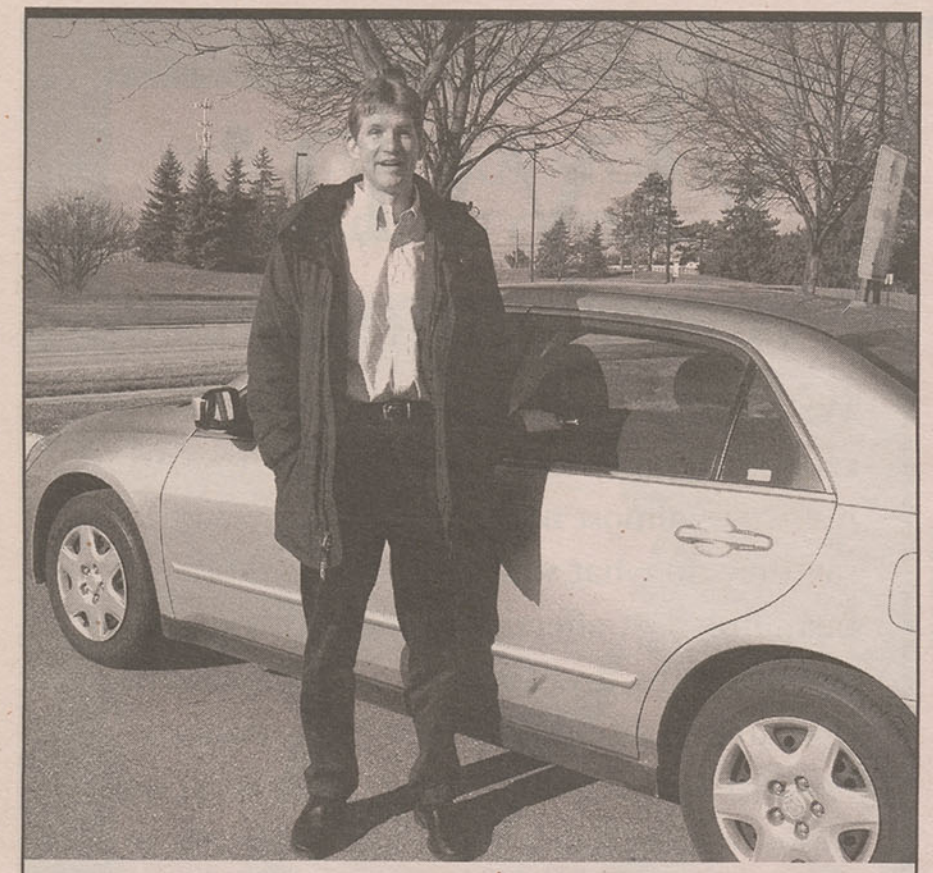
Sincerely,
Steve Pastner

B. J. Connor

To the Editor:

Thanks again for the privilege of winning last month's Fake Ad (after about sixteen years of trying)! The Reubens at Zingerman's were delicious! However, the ever-clever Fake Ad Czar might want to check next time if a person who goes by initials is male or female, rather than assuming male (as in "Ann Arbor's B. J. Connor won our random drawing. He pointed out . . .").

Thank you again,
(Mrs.) B. J. Connor



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Life in Ann Arbor
Tim Athan
"Ashley Terrace convinces me that we need development design guidelines. We need a brownness limit."

question corner

Q: Why has the Quality 16 movie theater on Jackson Road never had a business sign ON Jackson Road? Drives me nuts and probably others too. I often drive right past when I'm heading there, and miss it since it's set back so far. It's easier now with the new restaurant there, but is this the doings of the township folks or the theater owners?

A: The theater was developed as a Planned Unit Development (PUD), so some regulations were negotiated between the developers and Scio Township. According to former township planning consultant Doug Lewan, the owners, Goodrich Quality Theaters, never requested a large street sign. (There actually is a tiny sign near Jackson, but it's so small and set so low that it's virtually invisible to passing traffic.) Now that the theater building is hidden behind Carlyle Grill and Scio Towne Plaza, we're told that Goodrich plans to file for a site plan amendment to allow a bigger sign.

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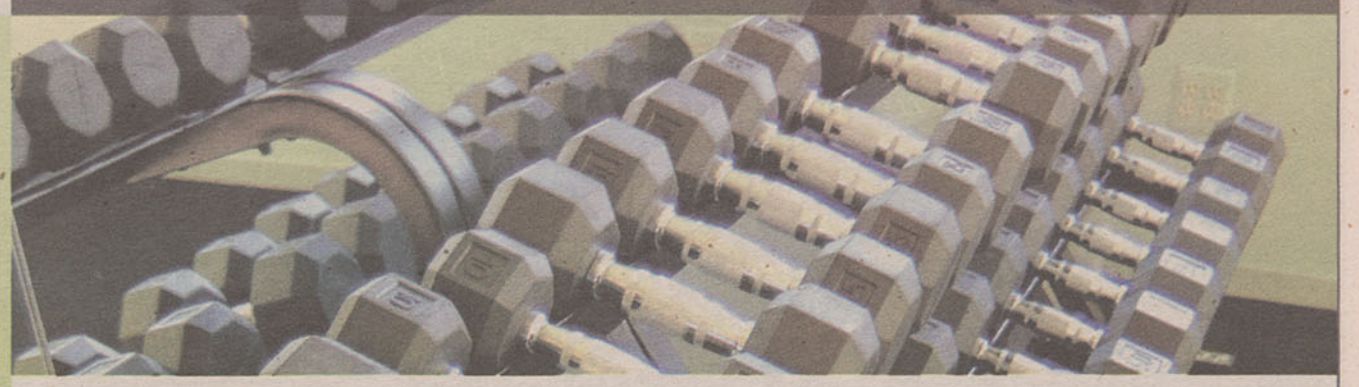

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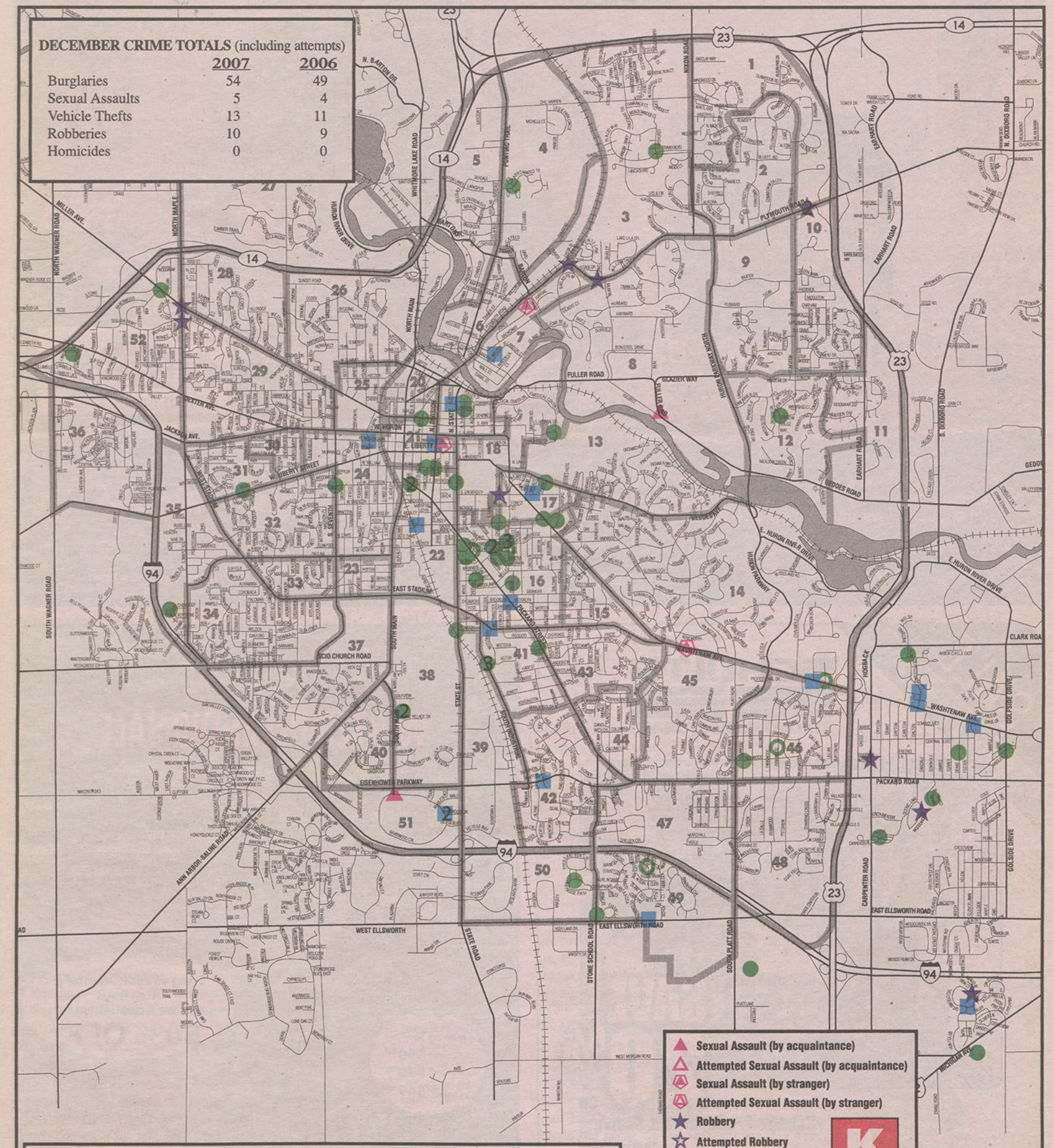
CrimeMap

DECEMBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2007	2006
Burglaries	54	49
Sexual Assaults	5	4
Vehicle Thefts	13	11
Robberies	10	9
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Township and on the University of Michigan campus during **December 2007.** The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call **Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775** (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the **Anonymous 24 Hour Tip Line** at **996–3199**. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's **Department of Public Safety** at **763–1131**, or call their **Anonymous Tip Line** at **(800) 863–1355**.

KEY

- Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- Attempted Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- Attempted Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- Robbery
- Attempted Robbery
- Burglary
- Attempted Burglary
- Vehicle Theft
- Attempted Vehicle Theft
- Homicide
- Attempted Homicide (by acquaintance)
- Attempted Homicide (by stranger)

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Adan Ascencio

CVS clerk, student, citizen of the world

The young Latino behind the counter at CVS breaks into a grin as I hand him a package of Jewish New Year cards to ring up. "You are Jewish?" he asks, with a slight accent. "So am I—one-third Jewish!"

I must look confused, because Adan Ascencio laughs as he explains. He was raised Catholic, but in high school, emulating a Jewish friend, he told a teacher that his paper would be late because of a Jewish holiday—and he's considered himself "one-third Jewish" ever since. He adds dramatically, "I am one-third Buddhist, one-third nonbeliever! I am a citizen of the world."

A few days later, over lunch at the Old Town, Ascencio discusses his bumpy but interesting path from Mexico to Ann Arbor. His mother, who works in an office downtown, joins him. They show pictures of his grandmother, a ballet star who appeared in movies and started a chain of ballet schools. His grandfather, a journalist, was the main TV commentator for Mexico in the 1968 Olympics. Ascencio's mother—she doesn't want her name used—grew up in luxury. "We had chauffeurs, we had gardeners, we had maids," she says. "I had a Mustang when I was thirteen."

MARK BIALEK

Ascencio as a child in Mexico (left) and in Ann Arbor today (above). He went from deprivation in his homeland—sometimes there was nothing to eat but a hard-boiled egg—to watching in shock as his classmates here dumped uneaten food in the trash. He still sometimes feels he "belongs to two worlds—and then to neither."

At eighteen she married an architect. But the marriage soon ended, leaving her a young single mother with two children, Adan and a younger sister. And by then, her family had lost all their money in Mexico's prolonged 1980s recession. "From everything, we had nothing," she says.

Her ex-husband helped sometimes, but he was struggling, too. Adan's mother and aunt joined forces to make ends meet. As they moved around the country, his mother took many jobs—waiting tables, short-term modeling engagements, working as a receptionist. Ascencio was never reduced to begging like kids he saw on the street, but he remembers times when there was nothing to eat but a hard-boiled egg.

Things improved when Ascencio's mother saved enough money to open a restaurant in Cancún. There she fell in love with a man from Ann Arbor. They married, and she followed him to Michigan, but problems developed quickly, both with the relationship and with her children's adjustment. Ascencio and his sister arrived speaking only Spanish, and initially they suffered in school. "I would come home and be crying because I didn't know English. I didn't like the food," Ascencio recalls. He was also shocked to see his new classmates dumping uneaten food in the trash, and talking back to their teachers. "At home you would get slapped in the face [for doing that]," he says.

Within two years, the marriage had fallen apart. Pregnant with her third child, Ascencio's mother and her children briefly moved out of town to a women's shelter. Unsure of their immigration status, she made several phone calls to family in Mexico, thinking she might have to return home. But her in-laws, wanting their future grandchild nearby, offered emotional and financial support if she would stay, and the family soon returned to Ann Arbor. She says the whole family is close to her former in-laws: "They have been angels for my kids."

Far from being traumatized, Ascencio remembers their brief exile fondly. "I never felt so close to my mother and sister" before, he says.

Ascencio "has the quality of the balance," says his mother proudly. "He is able to balance good and bad, negativism and positivism and anger, and he will not obsess with anything."

At twenty-two, Ascencio says he sometimes feels as if he "belongs to two worlds—and then to neither." In addition to working at CVS, he's trying to complete his undergraduate degree in business at EMU this year—but for his junior year abroad, he went to Mexico "to remind me where I came from."

When he accompanied his father on a job, he was surprised by his dad's leisurely pace—how he delayed a business meeting to visit a friend: "In the United States, you wouldn't do that." On the other hand, he appreciated the women he studied with: "To be honest, I think most American girls are stuck up and stupid—no offense. When I was in Mexico, the way girls talk there, it was so much more mature. . . . They're more impressed by an intelligent person." American girls, he complains, are "very into what you're wearing, what you look like. . . They want to have money."

Nonetheless, Ascencio has enjoyed the company of several girlfriends north of the border. He caught some ugly vibes, though, when he and a fair-skinned young woman, decked in goth attire, including heavy chains, walked into a Belleville restaurant. "It's like the music stopped," he remembers. "Everyone stared—it's, like, all white people. The waitress had an attitude."

Ascencio has been supporting himself since he was fourteen. Pragmatically, he talks about going into business to pay off his student loans. But he also thinks of earning a master's degree in sociology, to study poverty. "I remember my friends that were poor, not just for a couple of years but for their whole lives," he says. "If you're given the chance to succeed and you decide not to, that's fine. But you should at least be given the chance."

—Eve Silberman

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City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses**– in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

The best things in life, for free

Getting more than you pay for

On a frosty evening in December, the University Symphony and Philharmonia Orchestras, along with three vocalists and five poets, performed Evan Chambers's *The Old Burying Ground,* a massive and moving song cycle based on epitaphs that Chambers found in a New Hampshire cemetery. This month, on the orchestra's first tour since the 1980s, the piece will be performed at Oberlin College, Cornell University, and, finally, Carnegie Hall.

Well, half of the piece, anyway—only selections from *The Old Burying Ground* will be performed on the road. So the nearly 2,000 folks who showed up that night in Hill Auditorium not only saved the $25 that tickets to the Carnegie show cost, but also got to hear—and see—the entire piece, along with a preconcert discussion.

Who says the best things in life aren't free?

The U-M music school puts on roughly 400 free concerts a year. The quality is always high, but this one was exceptional. Soprano Jennifer Larson said later that her greatest challenge in performing her songs was not to weep, something she did more than once in rehearsals.

Chambers says people sometimes ask him whether "an hour-long piece about death isn't kind of morbid. I say things are only morbid when they glorify fear, in the way that Halloween does. That's not what I'm interested in. The piece is really a plea to myself and everyone else to wake up and live. If we really hold a full knowledge of what death means in each moment, then we'll be able to live, really live, an awakened life."

COURTESY THE ARK

Chris Bathgate appears February 26 at the Ark's Take a Chance Tuesday. The cost of admission: a donation to Food Gatherers.

Although not all freebies set the bar so high, this one had many of the qualities that make them such boons. New works are regularly featured, and the venues are splendid. Many of the performers are faculty and graduate student professionals. And, of course, the price can't be beat.

Ann Arbor is a far pricier place than it was when I first got here thirty-eight years ago, but opportunities still abound for culture consumers on limited—or no—discretionary-spending budgets. In a single week in January, the Observer's events calendar listed eight free classical concerts. Later in the month, the U-M's Basement Arts theater company opened a free run of John Guare's *Landscape of the Body*. Student actors' reach can exceed their grasp, of course, but adventure is one of the theater's chief glories.

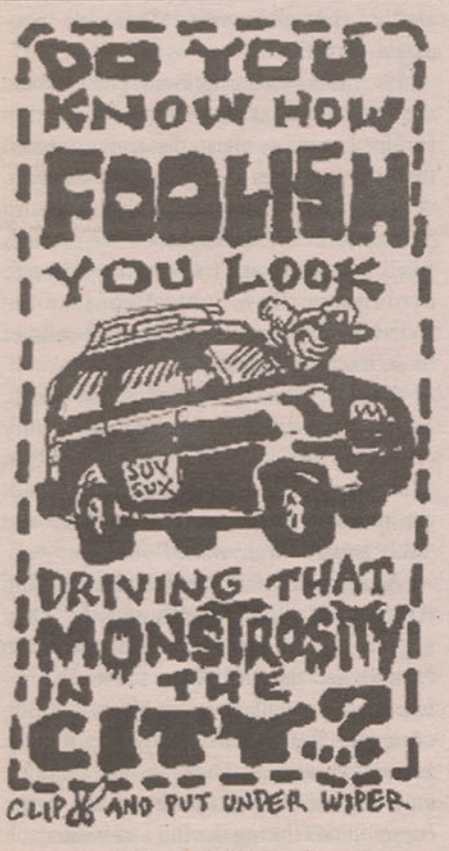
And then there's the long-running Take a Chance Tuesday series at the Ark. The Main Street music club is as much a shrine for folk music as Hill is for the classics, and for many of the same reasons: its acoustics, its ambience, and the legion of storied musicians who've played there. Some of them—Toshi Reagon and Erin McKeown come to mind—first appeared in Ann Arbor at a Take a Chance Tuesday concert. The price of admission: the donation of a nonperishable food item (or, preferably, items; or, failing that, a little cash) to Food Gatherers.

What's in it for the folks behind the podium or the mike or the footlights? Take a Chance performers hope people will like them enough to pay to see them again. Theater doesn't live until it has an audience. And classical musicians?

"I'd say the act of performing before an audience is absolutely essential to their training—perhaps even the center of it," says composer Chambers, who teaches at the music school. "You can't get that experience in a practice room or a studio class, and it calls on skills that are very difficult indeed to name, and harder still to master. Experience performing is one of the most important parts of an education in music. Even if you are an educator, or a scholar of music, that moment of pure infusion of energy into space and time is the act that your work is based on."

So even if it didn't cost you anything, not even a can of soup, you can feel a little altruistic, too.

—Jeff Mortimer



It's easy to scorn SUVs in San Francisco, but they do come in handy in a Michigan blizzard.

A winter's tale

SUVs and me

A decade ago in San Francisco, I met a Realtor with an SUV. I laughed scornfully even as he drove my wife and me around looking at lofts. It reminded me of the vehicles that ferried Salvadoran death squads in the early 1980s, or O. J. Simpson's white Bronco. A puffed-up motorized iron muffin seemed excessive in a city with too little parking, one that seemed to be better traversed on the frequent Muni buses or even (my Critical Mass friends hollered) bicycles.

About that time, a hoodlum calling himself "Nestor Makhno" began torching SUVs and bragging about it in manifesto-like letters to the newspapers. My activism was more gentle: I drew a cartoon of a clown in an SUV. It was published in my neighborhood monthly, with an invitation to readers to cut it out and place it under the offending vehicles' windshield wipers.

In 2000 we moved back to Michigan. I'd found a good new job up north, just ninety miles from my elderly, ailing father in Ann Arbor. A couple I'll call the Neighbors kept their eye on him, sending sobering emails as he declined.

Meanwhile, car mechanics in the Mitten State tut-tutted at our sporty Pontiac Firebird, suggesting that we buy an SUV for the snow. Call me prejudiced, but I pictured an SUV driver as someone who serviced his McMansion from a lawn tractor, ate plenty of red meat, and supported George Bush and the worldview of the petroleum industry.

It astonished me to see SUVs in Ann Arbor—home of one of the first Earth Day celebrations, the Ecology Center, and the bike-riding mayor.

Now, don't Dingell my mind with your mileage statistics. Don't tell me how some SUVs, especially hybrids, do better than our romantic Motor City muscle car, already an anachronism in the 1990s. It still astonished me to see SUVs in Ann Arbor—home of one of the first Earth Day celebrations, the Ecology Center, and the bike-riding mayor.

Some artists held an "Anti-Auto Show" during that year's Detroit Auto Show, so I submitted the clown cartoon. My father died that fall. The weekend of his memorial service we came down to stay in his house and begin cleaning it out. The day before the service, a huge December storm poured snow and ice on everything. The next morning I laboriously shoveled the driveway, showered, and put on my suit. My wife and I climbed into the Firebird—and as soon as we hit the unplowed street, we were stuck. I got out, cussed, and began to shovel our way out, working up a sweat. Would we make it to the service on time?

The next moment, an SUV wheeled confidently around the corner, and the window rolled down. It was Mrs. Neighbor. She was on her way to my father's service and offered us a ride.

On the way to church, I realized I needed to rethink my attitude toward SUVs. There are winter days in Michigan—maybe not even every winter—when one is required. Therefore, every neighborhood

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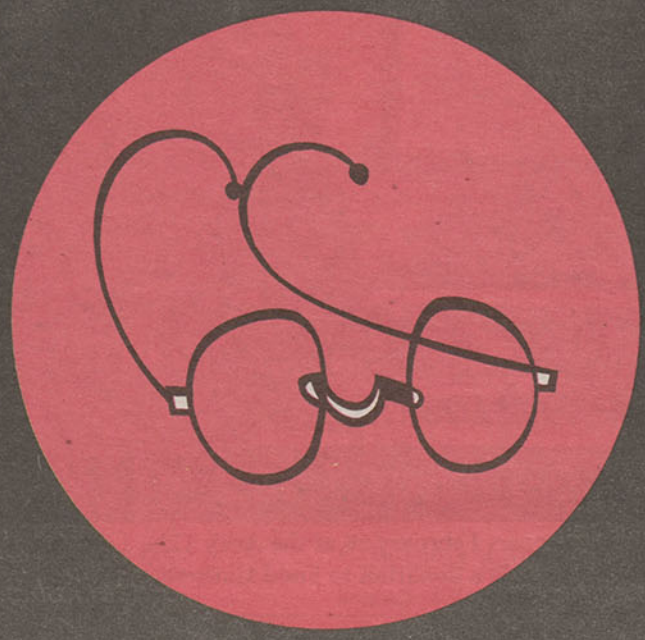

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should have one, to be loaned out in time of need. But only one. Maybe we'd all own it together, like buying into a time-share condo.

Recently I ran into Mr. Neighbor, and we had a nice chat. He says they're trying to see how well, and for how long, they can conveniently live with only one car. He might have to buy an economical compact for town driving, but they've gotten rid of the SUV.

I was about to break into a big grin at learning there's one fewer of those darn things around me. But then I realized: Winter's not over. Might need one again on this side of town someday.

—Mike Mosher

When crows cry

The winter flock

I thought I heard the baby cry and switched on the monitor, but the only sound was the whisper of the humidifier. Then it came again—a prolonged wail.

"Do you hear that?" I asked my husband, just back from walking the dog.

"It's crows," he said. "There are thousands out there."

He was not exaggerating. When I walked the dog the next morning with Marina strapped onto my chest, the crows covered the bare branches like great black leaves. A vision of Suzanne Pleshette being pecked to death in Hitchcock's *The Birds* filled my head, and I altered my route to avoid them. How could I confuse the sound of my sweet child with the calls of those nasty creatures?

After I got back, I called Sherri Smith, a volunteer with the Washtenaw County Audubon Society. She explained that while adult crows mainly caw, "the babies can make rattling sounds; they 'Ooh' and 'Ahh' and go 'Wah, wah.' "

As many as 18,000 crows flock to Ann Arbor each winter, Smith added. "They migrate in from far and wide, maybe even Canada and the UP." They roost all summer long in smaller communities made up of young families, birds too young to nest, and failed nesters. Then, in late summer, they begin flocking, forming much larger communities during the fall and winter.

"It may be for protection, but you don't need eighteen thousand birds for protection," she said. "There must be other reasons."

Cynthia Parr, now a researcher at the University of Maryland, studied Ann Arbor's crows in the late 1990s in the course of her U-M doctoral research. Unlike most birds, crows tend to stay with their parents for several years after they hatch, helping to raise their younger siblings. Parr hypothesized that crows' extended adolescence improved the survival of crow families, giving young adult birds more opportunities to learn foraging techniques and giving breeding parents extra help in warding off predators.

While Parr and I were talking, my daughter squawked in the background. Parr recalled that her son, now eleven, was a baby when she was out observing crows in the cold, dark winter evenings.

"You might be able to appreciate how hard it is to get a babysitter at bedtime," she joked.

At least Parr always had ready access to her research subjects. Year after year, crows flock to campus. Bruce Donald, a supervisor for the U-M building services, says the crows frequently stage in Forest Hill Cemetery on Geddes or farther north by the Detroit Observatory. Staging, a kind of crow happy hour, occurs in the early evening. Then the crows move en masse to a roost. The roosts are easy to locate—just look for guano decorating sidewalks, buildings, ground, and cars.

"They are messy," Donald says. "From time to time we encourage them to relocate their roosts." In the morning, staffers set off shrill noisemakers called screamers. "You've got to catch them before they get moving in the mornings," Donald explains. "If you wait too late in the day, it defeats the purpose."

Smith has a different take on crows. "They are a lot of fun to watch," she says. "It's exciting to watch them come in."

Her favorite daytime crow-watching sites include Michigan Stadium after a football game, when the birds descend to pick over the edible garbage left by fans. They also forage in fields around Textile and Dell roads. For viewing the evening roost, she suggests areas around Slauson Middle School or near Pioneer High School.

The crows roosted in our neighborhood, near the Washtenaw Dairy, in early December. After hearing Smith's enthusiastic endorsement, I overcame my prejudice and paused amid the winter gloom to listen to the din and watch their aerial acrobatics. The caws, ahs, and wahs ceased to sound like noise and began to take shape. I began to hear and see patterns, a rise and fall in volume and cadence, as some of the birds took to the air and settled back into the trees. By January they had moved on, but during the evening dog walk Marina and I can still hear them in the distance.

The winter roost lasts at least through the end of February. But once the weather warms, the visiting crows will beat it out of town to establish territories, and the resident crows will once again disperse into their smaller communities. When they return next fall, Marina will be talking; and though crows can sound very babylike, I bet none of them will ever say "Birdie."

—Catherine Zudak

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How Bob Bolak fired up Ann Arbor Radio

by James Leonard

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Bob Bolak started out in radio as a student at Central Michigan University—he says he's "the man who first brought Bob Marley to Mount Pleasant." Now forty-three, he's spent his entire working life in the business. And you can hear the disgust in his voice when he describes what WQKL, Ann Arbor Radio's flagship FM station, was like when he became general manager four years ago.

"It was an easy-listening, adult-contemporary oldies station," recalls Bolak. "In other words, a saccharine, watered-down piece of shit."

Nothing in Bolak's appearance or resume prepares you for such bluntness. In buttoned-down white shirt and khakis, the Farmington native is the picture of business casual—and he was sent here by Clear Channel, a company that made its fortune buying up local stations and turning them into formulaic clones.

Coming from a man whose previous jobs took him to Atlantic City, Chicago, and Benton Harbor, Bolak's diagnosis of the station's weakness is equally surprising: "Kool 107" was so lame, he says, because "the people running it were from out of town. Every day the general manager drove down from Canton. Every day the sales manager drove in from Detroit. They told me, 'Ann Arbor is like Detroit and wants to be like Detroit.' And I said, 'No. No, it does not. Ann Arbor doesn't give a shit about Detroit. Ann Arbor is better than Detroit.'

"The station was ranked number three or four in their own market," says Bolak. "Detroit stations were ahead of us—and they deserved to be. WJR has typically done well here and understandably so. But WRIF? That shtick is so sophomoric and juvenile. I said, 'This is total bullshit. We can do better than that.' "

And he did do better than that. A lot better.

"I was taking a big risk"

Then as now, Ann Arbor Radio consisted of WQKL and three other stations, each with its own market niche: WHNE played AM oldies, WWWW played country, and WTKA covered sports. Together, the four stations polled a cumulative weekly listenership of 170,000 and took in what Bolak describes as reasonable if not remarkable advertising revenue for the network.

When Bolak came in, he kept W4 and WTKA the same. Clear Channel turned WHNE into WLBY and affiliated it with Air America, the nationally syndicated liberal talk network. Bolak focused his attention on WQKL, which he renamed after its frequency—"Ann Arbor's 107one."

As Kool 107, the station followed a "gold AC" format, which Bolak describes as "oldies plus watered-down adult-contemporary." But "when I looked at Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County, I saw an audience that didn't match up with an oldies station at all," he says. "I saw an eclectic adult-contemporary audience that's socially enlightened and musically adventurous—and they didn't really have a station to call their own."

To win over those listeners, Bolak wanted to switch to a "triple A" format. The name, he explains, stands for " 'album adult alternative': 'album' as in deeper than just the hit songs, 'adult' as in not for teenagers, and 'alternative' as in not mainstream."

But first he had to persuade his bosses at Clear Channel. "I was taking a big risk," he admits. "I could have taken a solid oldies station and tanked the thing."

Charming but pugnacious, Bolak knew

Life after public radio

The DJ holding down the weekday morning slot is the key to any station's image—and to its success. And 107one's prime-time DJ is one of the most recognized and respected radio personalities in southeast Michigan, Martin Bandyke.

"We got lucky with Martin," Bolak says. "WDET blew up the station in 2005, and suddenly he was available. Some people said there was no way it could work—that Martin's done public radio for over twenty years, and he'll never adjust to commercial radio."

Actually, Bandyke is looking very well adjusted one Thursday morning in 107one's main studio—even though a live performance is less than ten minutes away. The Macpodz, a five-piece punk-Latin funk-jazz dance band based in Ann Arbor, are warming up next door for their on-air debut.

"Bob Bolak believes locally focused, listener-driven radio can also be successful radio," says Bandyke. "He really, really, really believes. And he makes it happen. I've been in radio for twenty-three, almost twenty-four years now, and I've never been on a number-one station before."

Before coming to 107one, Bandyke had spent his entire career at WDET, Wayne State's progressive-music station. It was a post of commanding hipness in the Detroit radio market, and Bandyke was legendary for his taste and depth of knowledge. He lost that job abruptly when WDET switched to an all-news format—but Detroit's loss was Ann Arbor's gain.

"I had several sterling meetings with Bob Bolak," Bandyke recalls, "meetings that made me think it might possibly work. I'll admit I was intrigued—and apprehensive about leaping over the fence to commercial radio. But I'd say I've adapted pretty well. And I love not having to do the fund drive anymore.

"Musically, it was easy," continues Bandyke. "Beatles to Dylan to U2 to whatever is current and cool—the same music I played at DET, the music I grew up with, the music we all grew up with, plus whatever's hot now. At first people would not believe it, but I didn't take any heat for [playing] it. My people made the transfer."

With that, Bandyke leaves to take his place with the Macpodz in Studio A2. Chris Ammel, the station's program director, deftly works the console. "This studio's a little small for a band of this size," he says. "We're more used to one, two, maybe three folks in there. We've had a whole bunch of local bands—plus Steve Earle, Bruce Cockburn, Guster, Beth Orton, and Robyn Hitchcock with Peter Buck [from R.E.M.]. How cool is that?"

Ammel counts down—and Bandyke and the Macpodz are on the air. —J.L.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Veteran WDET DJ Martin Bandyke jumped from public to commercial radio to come to 107one—but he brought his music and his listeners with him.

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Radio Head

exactly how to sell the format change: "What I had to do was to convince them that the upscale and bohemian markets here could be better served. See, what most people don't understand is that big corporations don't put on what they like: they put on what's going to generate the most revenue.

"I believed we could do both—provide better radio for the community and increase revenue for the corporation," he says. "I believed that with a customized, localized, listener-driven station, 107one could be and would be number one in the market."

When he got here, Bolak recalls, "there were nonprofits and businesses that wouldn't talk to us—and they wouldn't talk to us because they perceived us as interlopers. I totally understood that. The people here before me were strip-mining this place."

After graduating from CMU, Bolak sold radio ads in Atlantic City and the Chicago area and then became part owner of a small group of stations in southwest Michigan. "But when I got the chance to come here," he says, "I jumped on it." And he made a point of buying a house in the city. "I didn't come here to live somewhere else," explains Bolak. "I came here to live here. Living here is everything. My kids go to Wines and Forsythe. I walk to the Farmers' Market."

He took the same approach to staffing the station. "The key was to hire people who live here and work here," he says. "How can you really be in touch if you don't live here? If you live here, then the content is your life." His program director, Chris Ammel, also lives in town, as do several other key players at the station.

The gregarious former salesman knew that just living in the city wouldn't guarantee acceptance of the new format. Community involvement was also key. But "when I first got here in January of 2004," Bolak recalls, "there were nonprofits and businesses that wouldn't talk to us—and they wouldn't talk to us because they perceived us as interlopers. I totally understood that. The people here before me were strip-mining this place.

"But not us," Bolak insists. "We give back. We donate a quarter of a million dollars a year to community nonprofits." Ann Arbor Radio helps Food Gatherers, Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army, and many more service organizations, in ways ranging from producing public service spots to broadcasting live from Busch's during the annual Rockin' for the Hungry food drive.

Sandy Rupp, president of Washtenaw United Way, calls Bolak "an innovative person" who "really cares about the community." For the United Way, she says, Ann Arbor Radio created "our two-in-one jingle. They got a composer from California to write it, and it really worked. Now that jingle's being heard all around southeastern Michigan."

Ann Arbor Radio also supports nonprofit arts organizations. "When the state cut their funding last year," says Bolak, "107one did a whole day's fund drive for the Ann Arbor Film Festival—and that's just not something you do on commercial radio."

"We were there all day," recalls Christen McArdle, the Film Festival's executive director. "People were calling in all sorts of requests for the fund drive. And if they could find it, they played it—anything, even if it broke format."

"Very sincere, very persuasive personalities"

Rupp and McArdle do more than salute the stations' generosity—they listen to the programming. "I wake up to 107one in the morning," Rupp reports, "and I listen to it in my car radio, too, on the way to and from work." She says her favorite disc jockey is Martin Bandyke—and quickly adds, "but they're all so good." (See "Life after public radio," p. 25.)

Bolak works hard to understand the tastes of his listeners. "Sure, we take requests," he says, "and we also have a listener advisory plan. Plus we do different kinds of music testing—auditorium testing and cluster analysis—to find out what they want to hear."

The disc jockey is also crucial, says Bolak. "Our listeners listen to iPods and noncommercial radio," he says. "What makes the difference is the DJ—and ours are very sincere, very persuasive personalities, personalities who know a whole lot about music and who can put the music in context."

U-M communication studies chair Susan Douglas praises Bolak's changes. "When I came to Ann Arbor ten years ago, I found a very big music town—but local commercial FM radio was terrible. Bob Bolak changed that," she recalls. "There are people in town, and I'm one of them, who grew up surrounded by music and in love with music—and they want a radio station, too. They want to know about popular music now, and they want to hear the music they know, too." 107one caters to those listeners by playing anything from Robert Plant and Alison Krauss to the Black Crowes to Wilco to Dylan.

Douglas, a nationally recognized expert on the radio industry, says Ann Arbor Radio is part of a small but significant movement. "Since 9/11, there's been a listener backlash around the country against corporate radio and towards the kind of the localized programming 107one does," she

says. "And most of them have been successful to very successful in their markets. Besides, she adds, "after so much of Detroit's hegemony of the airwaves, people here in Ann Arbor really welcomed something so locally focused."

"We blew them away"

As Bolak foresaw, community involvement plus persuasive personalities yielded killer rating increases. An Arbitron survey last spring showed W4 drawing as many local listeners age twelve and up as Detroit powerhouse WJR, with 107one right behind. Among adults ages twenty-five to fifty-four, 107one and W4 ranked first and second, respectively.

The picture looked less rosy when Arbitron's fall survey came out in January—"WJR Tops, WQKL Drops," was the headline on Roger LeLievre's *Ann Arbor News* column. According to the new survey, the Detroit station's "12+" share had jumped by almost 50 percent—while 107one had lost almost 60 percent of its audience.

Bolak was unfazed by what he called a statistical "wobble." He suggested the fluctations might be due to an attempt to give more weight to data from Hispanic listeners (Spanish-language station WSDS, invisible in the last two surveys, suddenly popped up in the top half of the rankings on this one.) And he noted that 107one and W4 remained dominant among adults—whom he describes as the "money demographic" for advertisers.

Collectively, Bolak says, the four Ann Arbor Radio stations now attract 270,000 weekly listeners—100,000 more than they did when he arrived four years ago. And that's translated directly into increased ad sales. "During a time when advertising revenues in the state are down—and when advertising revenues for local ad media are down—our stations' overall revenue has grown forty-nine percent," says Bolak.

Last January, Clear Channel sold the Ann Arbor Radio group to its smaller rival, Cumulus Media. "A lot was expected of us right away," Bolak says. "Huge budgets came down from corporate—and we blew them away. Detroit's down huge. All the other Cumulus stations in the state are down huge. But we blew them away."

Having worked for both networks, Bolak says the difference between the two is size, not substance. "Cumulus was started by a couple of guys from Toledo," he says. "It's a lot less corporate. But make no mistake—it's all about the money. We make a lot of money and Cumulus likes the money, so they respect the programming."

The success of that programming says some interesting things about Ann Arbor

Bubba in the morning

"This is W4 Country—Good Times, Great Music—and here's an update on the story we've been following about the mysterious exploding appliances in Sicily. Remember at first the police blamed the exploding toasters and microwaves on the devil? Now the police are blaming it on aliens testing secret weapons."

Then it's into a song by Toby Keith—and Brian Cowan, program and music director of W4 Country and eponymous host of *Bubba in the Morning,* takes off his headphones and lets his voice drop half an octave.

"I'm a business major from Orange County out in California," Cowan explains, "but what I really wanted to do was to get into radio. So I got a job with KICK-FM in L.A. doing days and evenings. Then I transferred out to Detroit to do mornings, and then out to Kalamazoo for five and a half years." Cowan shudders at the memory and continues, "I came here under Clear Channel and stayed on after Cumulus bought the station."

Cowan's on-air partner, Katie McGillis, calls him back to the microphones. Together they do a traffic update on an accident at US-23 and I-94. "We're focused on Washtenaw County traffic," he explains off mike, "and we've trained our audience to call us about accidents and delays. We're also very focused on Washtenaw County weather. If something terrible is happening, we'll blow off everything and park it on weather.

"When I came here, I wanted it to be a stepping stone," Cowan continues during a Faith Hill song. "But I was offered a job in Detroit recently and I turned it down. I didn't want to move on. I love Ann Arbor. There's a whole lot of closet county fans here, people you'd never suspect. And you know what they say about country: our demographic is twelve to death."

Then Cowan slips his headphones back on and slides his voice back up to cajole listeners into bidding on a "genuine bobble-headed Bubba" for the stations' annual Toys for Tots campaign.

—J.L.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

W4 Country's Brian "Bubba" Cowan took the gig as a stepping stone. But he recently turned down a job in Detroit to stay in Ann Arbor. "There's a whole lot of closet country fans here," he says.

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Radio Head

in the new millennium. The rise of WQKL confirms Bolak's analysis there were a lot of musically sophisticated listeners like Susan Douglas just waiting for a station that reflected their tastes. But the strength of WWWW shows that there are quite a few country music fans here, too.

Even Bolak was surprised. W4 "broadcasts on the old WIQB frequency, and when they switched formats before I got here, I thought they were insane blowing up rock 'n' roll for country," he admits. "But when I got here and saw their ratings and revenues, I saw it was a legitimate format—a very legitimate format." And, Bolak adds, "it's not just the western part of the county that listens to W4. . . . I used to stereotype it that way, and I found out I was wrong. It's pervasive throughout the county."

"It's not just the western part of the county that listens to W4," Bolak says. "I used to stereotype it that way, and I found out I was wrong. It's pervasive throughout the county."

How did W4 expand the country-music tent? "They play country for smart people," says Bolak, "because that's who lives in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. With so many with college degrees and so much higher education, there's not enough of the other audience for ratings like these."

Bolak got some insight into W4's appeal during a live broadcast from a car dealership in Milan. While he was there, he recalls, an operating-room nurse came in, bought a huge truck, and "said one of the big surgeons she works with is a big W4 fan—listens to the station all the time

Whacked at WAAM

Just as Bob Bolak was arriving at Ann Arbor Radio four years ago, Lucy Ann Lance was leaving. "It was one of the hardest decisions I ever had to make," says the husky-voiced announcer. "I'd been there seventeen years!" But Lance, who started in radio at WAAM under the late Ted Heusel in 1984, says WAAM made her "an offer I couldn't refuse—an offer that doubled my salary."

Three years and ten months later, WAAM, the mostly local news and talk station, let Lance go—along with her producer and six part-time employees. "In Lucy Ann's case, it was absolutely not a question of listenership," explains station general manager David Drolshagen. "It was purely an economic decision. The owner and I discussed it very, very seriously—and I didn't want to see us close the doors. So we had to make serious cuts." Ironically, the very thing that got Lance to return to WAAM—a good salary—made her a tempting target when times got tough.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

WAAM fired Lucy Ann Lance to slash its budget—only to see advertisers follow the popular morning show host out the door.

Lance's departure, however, only made times tougher—much tougher. According to an anonymous industry insider, WAAM's advertising revenue has fallen $150,000 from the station's high-water mark of $500,000 a few years ago. Another insider confirms that number and says the money all went away when Lance did. Drolshagen says the figure is greatly exaggerated, but he acknowledges that "revenues are down"—and that some advertisers followed the popular host out the door.

"We used to do advertising with Lucy Ann at Kool," says Tim Galea of Norton's Flowers, "and when she moved to WAAM we moved with her. But when she left [WAAM], there wasn't much point in going on with them." John Mendler of Mallek's Service also stopped buying ads on WAAM. "She was far and away the best they had," he says. "Who else would we go to?" Both Mendler and Galea say

in the operating room—because it's the one station everybody can agree on.

"The thing about country stations is that they're more about family values, real family values, than the music. W4 is the kind of station mom and daughter can have on in the kitchen in the morning with breakfast—and they both like it." (See "Bubba in the morning," p. 27.)

Bolak says Ann Arbor Radio's fortunes could rise even more—"We can still grow the listenership and the business end of things"—but he doesn't plan any more major changes in format. "It's really pretty precious the way it is," he says, "and the last thing I want to do is screw it up."

The next-to-last thing he wants to do is leave town. "People here tell me they're afraid I'm going to leave," says Bolak. "They're worried the corporation will say, 'Okay, you've done a good job. Now we're shipping you out.' And they do do that, but that's not my plan. My plan is to be here and stay here and grow here.

"It's like this," Bolak concludes. "My kid has long hair, and when we were in Benton Harbor, people used to tease him. Nobody teases him here. Nobody would even think of teasing him here. Why would I want to leave that?" ■

they aren't planning to advertise on radio in the near future—"unless Lucy Ann turns up on it," adds Galea quickly.

Lance thinks that management made the cuts because owner Ron Unkefer wants to sell the station. Unkefer's First Broadcasting bought WAAM from longtime owner Lloyd Johnson four years ago; in January, First Broadcasting's board transferred WAAM and another station, WVIM in Memphis, to Unkefer personally as part of a retirement package. Drolshagen says that though the final paperwork hasn't been done, WVIM has already been sold, and he confirms that WAAM is for sale—though he hastens to add, "I bet every radio station in the country is for sale if the price is right and the money's there."

In the meantime, Drolshagen insists that "WAAM is still here and still a viable local station." He expects the station will be debuting new shows "starting the last week of January."

"I bet they'll put in a local program where the station takes no financial risk," predicts Lance, "programs like Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor. The station doesn't pay him: he sells advertising time for his own show. That's where he makes his money. So does Thayrone: he sells advertising time for his [*Bone Conduction Music*] show."

What's next for Lance? "I've had offers from every part of the country, but I want to stay local," she says. "My hope is that someone buys the station [WAAM] who cares about it and wants to restore it to what it was—and I'd like to be part of that revival."

Lance has always worked incredibly hard—she's been with CTN, the city's community access network, since she interned there in college, and she's currently an assistant manager. Until WAAM dropped her, Lance says, she typically worked from 6 in the morning until 8 or 9 in the evening. Although she's enjoying sleeping in, Lance doesn't think her forty-hours-a-week lifestyle is going to last. She vows, with supreme self-assurance, "I'll be back."

—*J.L.*

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Theater LOVERS

*From **flirting** to **marriage** at A2CT*

by Whitley Hill

COURTESY SUZI PETERSON

When Ann Arbor Civic Theatre managing director Suzi Peterson and husband Matt Stewart held their wedding reception at the theater a couple of years ago, they were in good company: seven other couples at the party also had met through A2CT productions.

Community theater is late-night rehearsals, costume fittings, and dusty dressing rooms filled with the detritus of past productions—wigs, feathers, graffiti-covered walls. It's postshow drinks with new friends in a noisy bar. And it's flirting—nuclear-strength flirting.

Since the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's founding seventy-nine years ago, the group has put on 443 plays and musicals. It's also produced untold dalliances, prolonged onstage kisses, affairs, marriages, and real, live babies.

Cassie Mann and Tom Steppe met in 1984 during an A2CT production of Studs Terkel's *Working*. The play was a musical and Mann wasn't a singer, but she'd heard there were some nonsinging parts and decided to audition. Steppe had little theatrical experience—a few plays in high school—but the play had some songs in it by his favorite singer-songwriter, James Taylor, so he tried out.

"Tom and I are convinced that had we not both been cast, we most likely would never have met," says Mann.

The cast spent the entire play onstage in an "employee lunchroom," coming forward only to act their scenes. "Tom and I made sure we sat at the same table," recalls Mann. "Over countless games of gin rummy, we teased, whispered, nudged, and gossiped. By the night of the final cast party, we were hooked." The two married in 1986 and have two teenage daughters.

Ask Joh Broughton, director of the Tecumseh Center for the Arts, what makes theater so conducive to romance, and she laughs long and hard. "There's just all this energy and all this group effort," she says. "You're all in it together, and you're going to love everybody in the cast, whether you like them or not! And sometimes the sparks fly a little more."

In Broughton's case, the sparks got a little help. In the late 1980s, when she was working at the Performance Network, she often interacted with Jim Posante, a veteran Civic volunteer. "Jim knew for a year that he was going to set up me and my husband, Dan [Walker, for years a technical director at the Purple Rose]," Broughton recalls. "He was waiting for me to dump my previous boyfriend. In October of 1994, Jim was working on *South Pacific* at Civic and asked Dan to help him with lighting. Then he sent Dan over to the Network to 'borrow equipment from Joh.' Three months later, Dan moved in. Eight months after that, we were married."

In 1984, Lisa Snapp was new in town and looking for things to do when she walked into the Civic. John Mouat was lounging against a stack of flats from a recent production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Soon she had agreed to work with him building sets for the next show, *The Late Christopher Bean*.

"This led to all nonwork hours being spent in the scene shop, measuring, cutting, building, and painting," recalls Snapp. "And, of course, there were the occasional forays with the building crew to the bar across the street." One night, exhausted after a marathon building session, the two grabbed some dinner at Thano's Lamplighter and went dancing at the Blind Pig. The next night they sawed and painted together side by side; as she was leaving the theater, John pulled her into his arms. Two years later, they were married on the stage.

Of course, things don't always end so rosily. The Civic's managing director, Suzi Peterson, recalls a long-ago tangle that was awkward for everyone. We'll rename the parties involved. . . .

"A long time ago, a guy named 'Floyd' was dating a woman named 'Esmeralda.' Both of them were involved with the theater, in acting and tech. Then Floyd met 'Edith' in a show and fell in love with her and broke up with Esmeralda. But all three of them were still involved with shows! Everyone was falling over themselves, trying to keep the two women away from each other and not working on the same show. People felt bad for Esmeralda and were 'on her side,' but the new couple was so happy together and were so vital to the organization that no one wanted to turn their backs on them either. In the end, it all worked out and people got along."

Mindy Oddy, a teacher, met Mark Bowles, a computer programmer, during a production of *Ernest in Love* at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre in 1974. She was the stage manager, calling the cues from a little desk in the wings; he was on the light crew and watched each show from a tiny booth high above her.

"Mark thought it would be romantic to throw a plastic daffodil, taken from the set decorations, and have it land in front of me, on my script. However, his aim was a bit off and it hit me in the head instead," says Oddy. The two married in 1977—with the same plastic daffodil in the wedding bouquet. They've since raised three children and are currently coproducers of the Woodside Community Theatre in California.

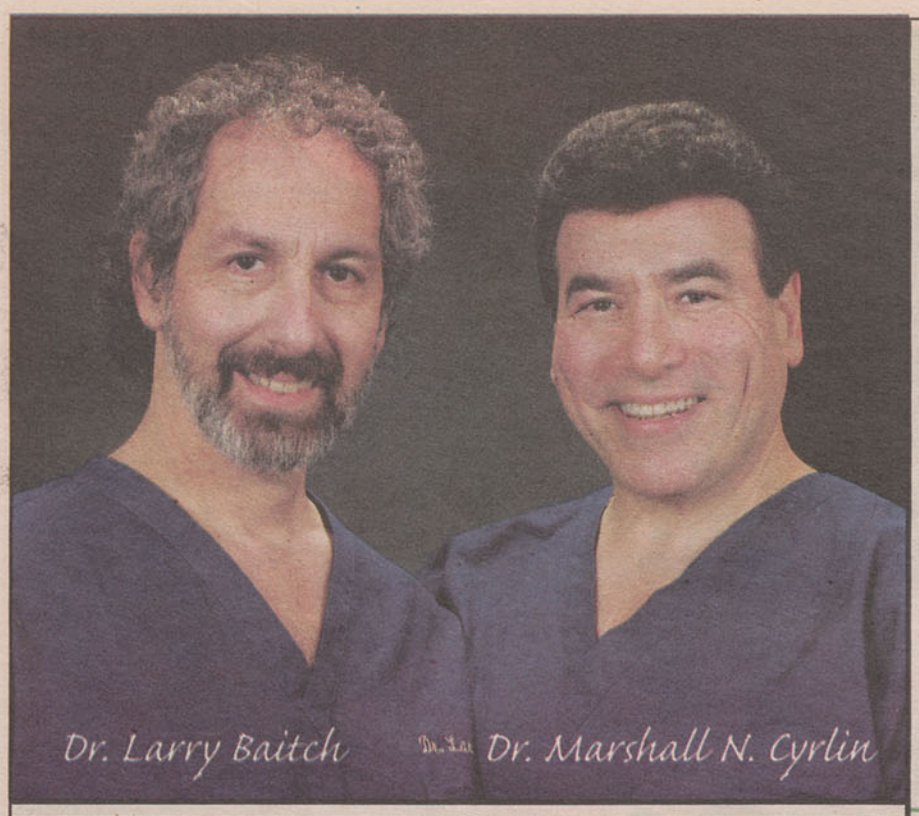
At the first rehearsal of a 1998 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Kathy Marrero scoped out the situation. "I was disappointed," she says, "because it appeared all the single men were either too young or too gay."

But as the show progressed, she got to know fellow cast member Curt Waugh, who was going through a divorce. There were many postrehearsal gatherings at Banfield's, but Marrero couldn't quite get up the courage to express her interest.

"I finally made my move during intermission of the final performance—a Sunday matinee. I figured I had nothing to lose," she says. "The show was ending and I might never see him again. I caught him backstage all by himself and said, 'I don't know what your status is, but if you'd like to go out, I would be interested.'" She says she's never forgotten the big smile she got in return. The two have been married six years and have two little girls who will soon be gracing the stage as well.

Dan and Melanie Hearsch met as dancers in a production of *Steel Pier* in 1999. They married in 2002, and in 2004 they both appeared in *Fiddler*—along with their daughter Molly, then a fetus, who gestated happily through all the singing and dancing. Molly was born nine weeks early, her parents add, showing an early flair for the dramatic. She made her official debut last year in *The Music Man*. ■

Postscript: Jim Posante met Charlie Sutherland in 1971, during a Civic production of Misalliance. *Their first date was the cast party; it was the start of a long and happy life bound by a mutual passion for theater and the arts. Posante died suddenly in January, right after a preview performance of the musical* Souvenir, *which he was directing at the Performance Network. He and Sutherland had been together thirty-seven years.*



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A Jewish Chaplain at St. Joe's

Grief, prayer, and the Twenty-third Psalm

by Nehama Stampfer Glogower

MARK BIALEK

Nehama Glogower at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

The pager went off in my room at McAuley Inn at 2:30 a.m. It was my first night as on-call chaplain for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and my first reaction was surprise that I'd fallen asleep. My second thought was a panicky "Oh, my God. What am I doing here?"

I imagine that once you step off the ledge—bungee cord securely strapped to your feet—the thought might cross your mind that maybe this wasn't the best idea. That was me as I called the number on the pager: labor and delivery. There had been a fetal loss—at fourteen weeks—and the parents wanted the chaplain to provide a blessing.

It's a long walk from McAuley Inn to the main hospital, and although my training had begun a few weeks earlier, it was still unfamiliar territory. The corridors are unimaginably quiet at that time of night. But somehow I found my way, and minutes later the nurse led me to the room.

She knocked gently on the door and said, "The chaplain is here." A weeping woman sat in bed, cradled in the arms of her red-eyed husband. A would-have-been grandmother sat rigidly in one chair. I sat beside her.

Grief hung heavily in the room. My sweaty palms and self-consciousness were forgotten. Heartbroken, we sat together in the stillness. We began to talk, and then we prayed. We prayed for hope, courage, strength, consolation. We mourned the future that should have been. For a brief time the family allowed me to share their journey, and when it was time to leave, I said good-bye.

I never saw them again, but the bungee cord had held. I knew I was where I was supposed to be.

Two Januaries ago, my daughter celebrated her twentieth birthday at St. Joe's—she was having a serious bout with pneumonia. I was there for her as several nurses in succession struggled with her tiny veins, putting IVs in both arms. I was strong even when the doctor said the words that no mother wants to hear: "Well, she's sicker than we thought at first." As soon as she was stabilized, though, I realized that I needed a place to pray.

The chapel at St. Joe's is beautiful, but I couldn't find a spot there that was free of Christian imagery—and I'm an Orthodox Jew. Trusting that people of faith share far more that binds than divides, I ended up crying on the shoulder of a chaplain—one of the sisters—in her nearby office.

Months later, I called Bill Foster, the director of pastoral care at St. Joe's. I told him about my experience and we talked about the possibility of creating a neutral space for non-Christians to pray in. The timing couldn't have been better: the hospital was undergoing construction and its administrators were beginning to think about the design for the new chapel.

We had a friendly chat—and then, to my astonishment, I heard myself ask, "And do you have any programs for chaplaincy training?" I pulled the phone away from my ear and stared at it, wondering if I'd really said that.

Within our small Jewish community—the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan—I had, unfortunately, gained some experience providing pastoral care. And five years earlier, I'd been grateful for the hospital staff in Portland, Oregon, who stood by me when my brother was fatally injured in a bicycle accident. But I had never consciously considered it as a career.

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"Pastor Bill," though, took my question at face value. A few days later, an application for Clinical Pastoral Education arrived at my house. The first question was "Give a reasonably full account of your life until now, including important events and relationships in your birth and current family." The next five weren't much easier. But a month of writing and two interviews later, I was accepted into the CPE program.

We were an eclectic group: three Catholics, a Jew, and two Protestant supervisors. Our first unit—it takes four to become a certified chaplain—lasted sixteen weeks, each one starting with a gut-wrenching full-day seminar. Then, beginning on our second day, we were shooed out to visit patients.

That first Tuesday I timidly poked my head in a few doorways, explained that I was from the pastoral care office, and asked whether the patients would like a visit. I was politely, if firmly, turned down until the fourth or fifth room.

I'd read about the diabetes epidemic, but until that moment, I'd never understood how completely the disease can ravage the body. The man's left leg had been amputated, and the right, which was hanging in a sling, didn't look so great. He had trouble taking care of the wounds because of financial problems. "I came back here and they said, 'Well, why didn't you get the bandages?' " he recounted. "I couldn't afford it. I had an aide that robbed me—took eight thousand dollars."

But his health wasn't the main thing on his mind. We talked about his divorce—"She was a mean bitch! Sorry, Pastor"—and his son, who had been estranged from him for many years. "I used to say all kinds of hurtful things in those days," he admitted. And then, incredibly, he told me that the disease was the best thing that

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A Jewish Chaplain at St. Joe's

ever happened to him: it had taught him some humility and had allowed him to reconnect with his son.

"So what denomination are you?" he asked. "Well," I kind of muttered, "actually, I'm Jewish." I braced for the response, which turned out to be, "Hell, that don't matter! We all believe in God!" When the conversation ended, I kind of danced back to the pastoral care office. This man had shared his story, and he had accepted me.

Though we make our visits alone, CPE gives plenty of feedback. Each week two students present "verbatim" reports of an encounter with a patient, and the group reenacts it. Once I read the role of a mother; as the story unfolded, the chaplain had to break the news that her son had been found dead of an overdose. My tears were real as I considered the horror of that moment—but then, moments later, we were dissecting the interaction. We look for questions we should have asked, how a question might have been rephrased to be open- rather than closed-ended, and moments when silence would have been better than speech. Always, the goal is to help the patient clarify his or her spiritual situation.

Pastor Bill was sympathetic to my concerns about being a Jewish chaplain at a non-Jewish hospital. "I can relate to that somewhat," he told me, "because I'm a Baptist minister in a Catholic hospital." I nodded as if I understood what that meant, and made a mental note to start studying up on Christianity.

So far, my being Jewish hasn't been an issue. One woman told me wistfully that she'd like to hear the Lord's Prayer, "but I know you can't say it." "That's true," I said, "but I would love to hear you say it." She turned to her son and we all held hands while they started in, "Our Father, who art in heaven . . ." She was beaming.

I hadn't been sure how to handle the Lord's Prayer, and my rabbinical husband wasn't much help—all he remembered was fragments picked up while attending Indianapolis public schools in the 1950s. We eventually decided that I'd focus on the Twenty-third Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd" was something we could all agree on. Since then I have often read the Twenty-third Psalm—even in Hebrew once or twice! (People are pleased that Jesus knew it in that language.)

Once I visited a Muslim patient, introduced myself as a hospital chaplain, and was told, "Well, I'm not Christian." "That's okay," I responded. "Neither am I." She had grown up in Cairo, and she told me her secret trick for acing her Hebrew class at the American University there. It's not easy to bridge the Muslim-Jewish gap, but sometimes it happens.

Once I looked in on a Jewish patient and gave my generic introductory spiel of "Hi, I'm the chaplain—are you up for a little visit?" She looked at me and said, "Thank you. I do not require your services." I backed out of the room, consulted my list, and went back in. "Excuse me—I forgot to mention that I'm a Jewish chaplain." This time I got a smile: "Well, that's a pretty important bit of information, don't you think, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital! Come on in."

My bubbie would have understood. My mother's mother fled Russia after her father was killed in an anti-Semitic pogrom. When Bubbie was young, Jewish women still avoided giving birth in Catholic hospitals, for fear that someone might baptize their babies. (There was a famous case in nineteenth-century Italy where a Jewish child was taken from his family after a servant baptized him.)

Bubbie's childbearing years were far behind her by the time she checked into St. Vincent's, a Catholic hospital in Portland, in the late 1960s. Still, she was troubled by the prominent crucifix in her room. It was bolted to the wall, so she asked my mom to buy a vase, fill it with gladioli, and position it strategically. Problem solved!

When I started work at St. Joe's last year, each room also had a crucifix on the wall—though a smaller one that could easily be removed. Jewish patients would sometimes ask if I could "do something about it," and I'd unhook it and stash it away in a drawer. Rooms in the new patient tower have just a stylized tapered cross; so far, no one I've talked to has minded.

I read the newspaper differently these days. Reports of accidents now raise vivid images of the emergency room. In the obituaries I find people whom I have met, or whose families I have sat with. The night I shadowed the night chaplain, three children died in an Ypsilanti house fire. The following

One woman told me wistfully that she'd like to hear the Lord's Prayer, "but I know you can't say it." "That's true," I said, "but I would love to hear you say it." She turned to her son and we all held hands while they started in, "Our Father, who art in heaven . . ."

week a mother of a large family was brought to intensive care and put on life support following a brain aneurysm. Her family had been made homeless by the fire. She was declared brain dead hours af-

Once I visited a Muslim patient, introduced myself as a hospital chaplain, and was told, "Well, I'm not Christian." "That's okay," I responded. "Neither am I."

ter she arrived at the hospital. Had the stress brought on the aneurysm? No one knows.

Maybe it's the quiet or maybe it's just their time, but there seem to be more deaths at night. One night I responded to a code blue—a patient's heart had arrested. By the time I got there, the man had died. The medical personnel had left, but there were still plastic wrappers from medical supplies on the floor and blood on the sheets.

When the family arrived an hour later, everything had been cleaned. The deceased was laid carefully in the bed. I sat with them as they told stories of camping and hunting, how everybody who met him was drawn to him and wanted to be his friend, how much he had loved to play with the grandchildren. A person began to emerge, and I was able to look beyond the lifeless body before me.

One time I got a call to see a woman who had just been placed under hospice care. Her family had filed out when I arrived, so it was just the two of us. I sat on a chair close by her bed. "So I hear you're being transferred to hospice," I began. She looked at me and replied, "I don't think I have long to live."

I steadied myself and agreed she might not.

"Do you know how long I'll live?" she asked.

"No," I admitted, "but I don't think anyone can tell you that exactly." And there we were, in less than forty-five seconds, in conversation about life, forgiveness, the afterlife, and God. Half an hour later she was comfortable and asleep. She died less than three days later.

When I started the CPE program, my older kids worried the work might be too depressing. It's true that many of the stories are very sad. An elderly woman told me how much she regretted signing papers forty years earlier so that her seventeen-year-old son could join the army and go to Vietnam. He'd recently died, after suffering aftereffects of Agent Orange. A quadriplegic wanted to die so he wouldn't be a burden on his family. One elderly man was dying alone—estranged from his children, the nurse told

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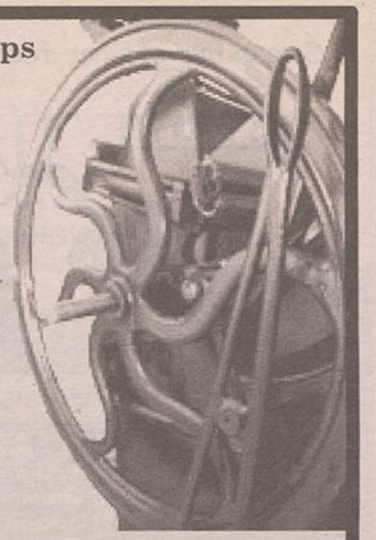

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59. Heartburn
60. Other digestive problems
61. Sciatica (leg pain)
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63. Kidney and bladder problems
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A Jewish Chaplain at St. Joe's

me. It breaks your heart.

Most often, though, I hear stories of lives led with great determination. A World War II veteran told me how he volunteered for a different assignment because he was bored; sixty years later he still felt a survivor's guilt, because almost all of his former buddies were killed in the Battle of the Bulge. One woman had lost her stepson to a random shooting. Another had raised her former husband's children after he and his new wife died.

Within even the greatest tragedy there is potential for love and affirmation. One woman, beaming, told me how blessed she was by God, because the doctors treating her for breast cancer had found a uterine cancer that might otherwise have gone undetected. A family was giddy with delight that even though Mom's car had hit a tree and flipped over, she had no broken bones. In a hushed voice a woman told me how she had heard her departed husband's

I read the newspaper differently these days. Reports of accidents now raise vivid images of the emergency room. In the obituaries I find people whom I have met, or whose families I have sat with.

voice calling to her, reassuring her that he would always love her. I'm no longer surprised to hear about visions of the Blessed Mother or angels.

And sometimes no story is necessary. A family gathers around a dying mom; one son caresses her bald head while the other touches her shoulder and a daughter grips her hand.

When I began the program, one of my fears was that I'd keep "running into myself" in the hospital—seeing moms or sisters in situations that paralleled my own. And I have, but in a way that's helped rather than hurt.

A wife about my age sat by her husband in the surgical ICU; his esophagus and part of his stomach had been removed because of cancer. When I asked whether there was anything I could bring for them, the man, just a few hours post-op, managed to whisper, "How about a Lamborghini?"

"Sorry," I said, "I just gave my last one to the guy next door. How about a beat-up Ford Windstar?" He shook his head firmly. His wife smiled and explained that he'd worked at GM until he got sick. In addition to caring for him and their two chil-

dren, she had had to go back to work herself, making much less than he had earned.

Another woman my age grieved over her mother's stomach cancer. The mother had gone in for surgery, and the surgeon had discovered that the cancer was more widespread than the doctors had thought. Now she was recovering from the surgery, but there was nothing to do for the cancer. I was reminded of my own parents, who are into their eighties, and wondered how I would cope with their inescapable decline.

Pastor Bill arranged for us to observe surgery; he thought it would help give us a sense of what patients undergo. The operation I observed happened to be for a brain tumor—my brother's death was caused by a brain injury. The surgery itself was a miracle of patience and detail. Although I had feared that I'd pass out or otherwise disgrace myself, I found myself deeply moved—both by how well our brains are protected and by how very vulnerable we are. I peeked in on the patient that night in the surgical ICU. He was still a little groggy, but the surgery had been successful. I thank God for conditions that can be repaired, even while mourning those who are beyond medical help.

On my final night on call with the unit, I was told that a woman was likely to be taken off life support that evening. I went in to see her. She was hooked up to even more machines than usual: ventilator, heart monitors, lots of IVs, dialysis. Her skin was stretched and swollen from fluid retention. According to my information sheet she was five years older than I was. I sat there reflecting on this unknown woman's life, guessing at hopes and dreams eclipsed by disease. I reflected on my own hopes and dreams. She had entered the hospital for a simple surgery, only to have the doctors discover cancer and an already-present infection.

The family were gathered, waiting for the doctor. She arrived and sat with them, answered all of their questions, and then left them to decide. I tried to make myself invisible—wanting at once to be present and to protect their privacy as they made their final decision. Their sense that "Mom wouldn't have wanted to be like this," and the realization that by now it was only machines making her blood move and lungs pump air, made the decision inevitable.

I pulled myself out of obscurity and led them in prayer. We prayed for strength, for peace, for tranquillity, and for their mother's soul. I accompanied the family back to the ICU, and they entered her room along with the doctor and nurse. When the machines were turned off, her death was virtually instantaneous. The family left, with St. Joe's bereavement packet in hand. I walked them out to the elevators. Once again, a brief journey shared.

Everybody who enters the hospital brushes up against his or her mortality. Even when the surgery is successful, the infection is cleared up, and the treatments work, that bit of fear has been introduced. I'm not a physician or a nurse. I can't cure anybody. I'm not a social worker. I can't help solve life problems. I am a chaplain. I can be present, and maybe that's enough. ■

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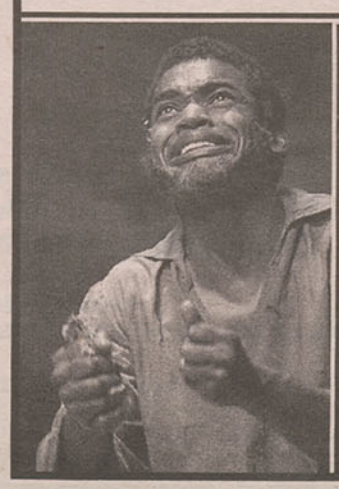


February Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

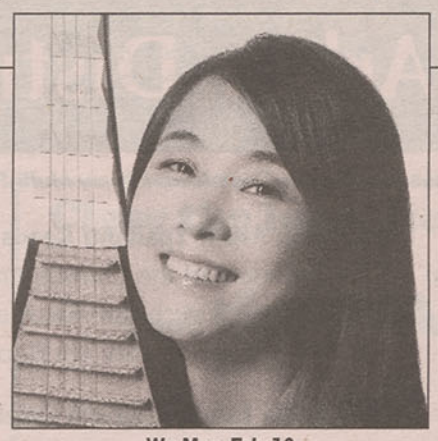
arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

***Dandia Dhamaka*, Feb. 2**



Wu Man, Feb. 10

GALLERIES

45 Exhibit Openings — *Laura Bien*

45 Gallery Review
Letters to Sala — *Laura Bien*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

78 Nightspots Schedule — *John Hinchey*

78 Nightspots Review
Anna Ash — *Whit Hill*

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43 Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
Four hands are better than two — *James Leonard*

47 Joe Henry
Songs that get their hooks in you — *James M. Manheim*

57 Charles Baxter
Identity theft — *Keith Taylor*

61 David Holt
Appalachian tales — *Sandor Slomovits*

63 Noism08
Global choreography — *Stephanie Rieke*

67 Ahmad Jamal
The art of the modern jazz piano trio — *Piotr Michalowski*

108 Events at a Glance

Buckwheat Zydeco, Feb. 11

Christian Tetzlaff, Feb. 14

1 FRIDAY

★"Friday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Friday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 or 55–65 miles, to either Dexter, Grass Lake, Munith, Stockbridge, or the Waterloo Recreation Area. *9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

★Writing Groups: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Monday & Friday.* All seniors invited to read and discuss the poetry, essays, reminiscences, and fiction they have written. *10 a.m.–noon (Fri.) & 1–3 p.m. (Mon.), Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders. *Every Friday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Nancy Sanders's ***D is for Drinking Gourd*** and Jerdine Nolen's ***Pitching In for Eubie.*** Also this month: Karen Katz's ***Princess Baby*** and Cornelia Funke's ***Princess Pigsty*** (February 8), Leslie Helakoski's ***Big Chickens*** and ***Big Chickens Fly the Coop*** (February 15), Peggy Rathmann's ***Officer Buckle and Gloria*** and H. A. Rey's ***Curious George and the Firefighters*** (February 22), and Sandy Asher's ***Too Many Frogs*** and Jonathan London's ***Froggy's Sleepover*** (February 29). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★"Tomb Chamber as Kunstkammer: The Meaning of Collected Objects in a Steppe Burial": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Talk by University of Pennsylvania art history visiting scholar Warren Woodfin. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 180 Tappan Hall, 519 S. State. Free. 764–0350.*

"Coffee Club Skates": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *Every Friday.* All adults invited to skate to soothing music. Coffee & pastries. *1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $5 (youths age 17 & under & seniors age 60 & over, $4). Skate rentals available ($3). 761–7240.*

★Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Friday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Monday & Friday.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★U-M Men's Swimming & Diving vs. Penn State and Ohio State. *February 1 & 2. 6 p.m. (Feb. 1) & noon (Feb. 2), Canham Natatorium, Hoover at S. Division. Free. 764–0247.*

★AXIS Coffeehouse: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Friday through February 15.* All kids in grades 6–12 invited to perform their own poetry or monologue, or a favorite by another writer, or just to sip a hot drink and listen. *6:30–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★U-M Wrestling vs. Illinois. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 996–1332.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. NMU. *February 1 & 2. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

"Torch Songs and Toe Tappers": Out Loud Chorus. *February 1 & 2 (different locations).* Performance by **Lisa Gray,** an award-winning San Francisco cabaret singer who now lives in Ann Arbor. Gray's performance is preceded and followed by sets of jazz standards by Out Loud, a chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7:30 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 in advance at OutLoudChorus@gmail.com and at the door. 482–8183.*

"A Lie of the Mind": Pioneer Theater Guild. *February 1 & 2.* Julia Glander and Alex Leydenfrost direct Pioneer students in Sam Shepard's celebrated 1985 Off-Broadway hit about the mutually self-abusive relationship between a husband and wife who retreat to their respective family homes after he beats her nearly to death. Alternating between scenes at each home, the action, at once terrifying and painfully funny, widens into a vision of family ties as a deadlock of violated yet impregnable privacies. The play is Pioneer's entry in this year's statewide drama competition. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. $5. 994–2191.*

"Big Mary": Community High Theater Ensemble. *January 31–February 2.* Anne-Marie Roberts directs CHS students in Mark Medoff's drama about a small Tennessee town whose sense of justice is put on trial when a confused and angry circus elephant kills a surly animal wrangler. Stars Rebecca Felkey, Zack Dunin, Shane Devine, Katie Wright, Maya Bassett-Kennedy, and Jamal Hunter, with Michelle Weiss, James Mills, Jon Darga, Miles Shaffer, Laura Blue, Maria Lams, Kristina Graham, Carly Kirchen, Rachalle Mehdi, Alice Elliott, Beth Reinstein, Carolyn Buckingham, Josh Shapiro, and Cortnie Graham. *7:30 p.m., Community High School Craft Theater, 401 N. Division. (Parking available in the lot behind the school, N. Fifth Ave. at Detroit St.) $8 (students, $5) at the door only. 994–2021.*

★"Coffee Cupping and Tasting & Latte Art Demonstration": University Lutheran Chapel Common Cup. All invited to sample some of the coffee shop's current coffees and see demonstrations of fancy decorations made on the surface of lattes. *8 p.m., Common Cup (lower level), 1511 Washtenaw. Free. 327–6914.*

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *February 1, 15, & 29.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships,* vol. 5. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

★Jeremy David Tarrant: EMU Music Department. This Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Detroit) choirmaster performs symphonic organ music by French composers, including Franck, Widor, and Vierne. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★Yehonatan Berick: U-M School of Music. This U-M violin professor performs Schumann's Sonata no. 3 and Grieg's Sonatas no. 2 and no. 3. Accompanist is pianist Polina Khatsko. *8 p.m., U-M Music*

February 2008 Event *Highlights*
Ann Arbor District Library

All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **3** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2008 Event: Elizabeth Chiu King** President of the Chinese American Educational and Cultural Center of Michigan discusses **Food in Chinese Culture** Downtown Library 4th Floor Meeting Room

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **3** — **India Family Cultural Celebration** Learn, share, dance and enjoy traditional crafts and treats

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **7** — **Panel Discussion: Stem Cell Research—The Science & Ethics** with **Dr. Jack Mosher**, Assistant Research Scientist at the UM Life Sciences Institute

Saturday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **9** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2008 Event: Celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year** with stories told by **Frances Kai-Hwa Wang** and yo-yo activities

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **10** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2008 Event: *The Eighth Promise* Book Discussion** at Eastern Accents, **214 S. Fourth Avenue**

Monday 7:00 - 8:45 pm — **11** — **Jazz 101: Modern Jazz** with **Mark Clague**, Assistant Professor of Musicology, UM School of Music, Theatre and Dance

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **12** — **Love Your Heart: Health Information for Women** with **Dr. Mira Sinha** and nutritionist **Karen Koeppe** of Packard Community Clinic • Malletts Creek Branch

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **13** — **From Ewe to You** • Farmers and weavers share their expertise on wool and its local production

Saturday noon - 4:00 pm — **16** — **Ann Arbor Kids Cook** • **Grades K - 5** Malletts Creek Branch

Sunday 2:00 - 3:00 pm — **17** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2008 Event: Masks of China—Lions, Dragons and Painted Faces** • **All Ages**

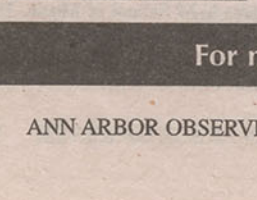
Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **18** — **Panel Discussion: From the Farm to Your Fork—Why Local Food Can Make Us Healthier, Happier and More Secure** Featuring area food specialists, farmers and scientists

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **19** — **Panel Discussion: Other People's Skin** • Complexion and race identity with authors **Elizabeth Atkins** and **Desiree Cooper**, psychologist **Dr. Gail Parker** and activist **Lila Cabbil**

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **20** — **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2008 Film: *Becoming American, The Chinese Experience* Part II: *Between Two Worlds***

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **21** — **Panel Discussion: HIV in Our Washtenaw County Community** with area experts including **Jimena Loveluck**, CEO of HARC

Tuesday 1:00 - 4:00 pm — **26** — **Chesstastic** **Grades K - adult**



Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **27** — **Black History Month Concert: Evolution of African American Music** with the **Kasuku Mafia One Man Band**

Thursday 10:00 - 11:00 am — **28** — **Wildlife Safari: The Animal Guy** will take you around the world with his strange and fascinating live creatures • **Preschool - Grade 5** Pittsfield Branch

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

1 FRIDAY *continued*

School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.

★Symphony Band: U-M School of Music. H. Robert Reynolds conducts this music-student ensemble in Corigliano's *DC Fanfare*, Virgil Thomson's *A Solemn Music*, Vaughan Williams's *English Folk Song Suite*, Copland's *Emblems*, David Dzubay's *Celebratory Fanfare for 6 Solo Trumpets*, Mozart's Divertimento no. 3, J. S. Bach's "My soul longeth to depart in peace," and Donald Grantham's *Bum's Rush*. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Sonic Circus with DJ Dubble8: Canterbury House. The East Coast-based Sonic Circus, the duo of bassoonist Dana Jessen and saxophonist Michael Straus, is joined by Cambridge, Massachusetts, DJ Dubble8 for a performance that blends the duo's acoustic new music and visual projections with Dubble8's fizzy, angular susurrations. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 donation. 764–3162.*

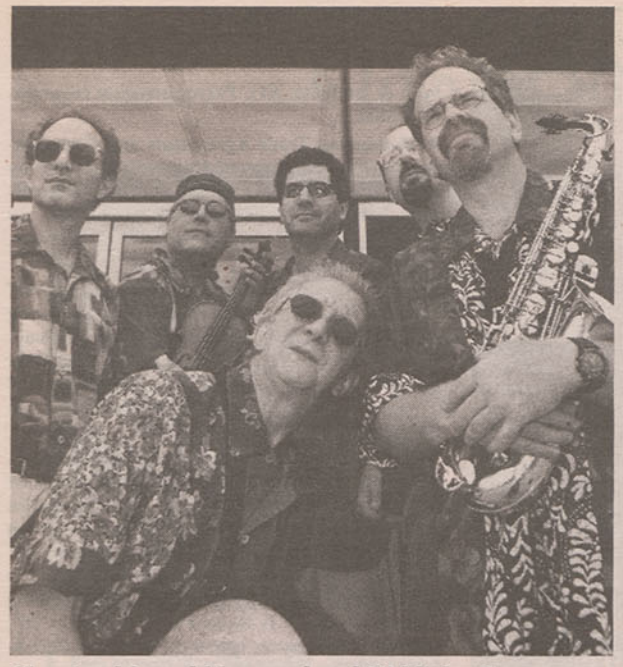
★"Hip-Hop Congress Midwest Summit": 21st Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. *February 1 & 2.* Two days of hip-hop related events. Tonight: a screening of a hip-hop film TBA in the Michigan Union followed by Q&A with **DJ Charlie Chase** of the Cold Crush Brothers (8–10 p.m.) and a U-Club concert by the Chicago hip-hop ensemble **Five Elements Warriors** (10 p.m.–midnight). Tomorrow's summit highlights include a **panel discussion featuring Public Enemy's Professor Griff** (2:10–3:50 p.m.) and a Michigan Union Pendleton Room concert by **Baatin of Slum Village, One Be Lo, Invincible, Versiz, Supa Emcee, 5 ELA,** and others (8 p.m.–midnight). *8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan Union. Free. 763–9044.*

The Juggernaut Jug Band: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Traditional jug band music by this acclaimed quartet from Louisville, the birthplace of jug bands. A mixture of classic jazz and blues, jug band music is a swaggering party music, full of high spirits and sexual humor, performed by a modified string band that includes kazoos and other wind instruments, washboard, and, of course, a stoneware jug, an instrument from which a good musician can coax a surprisingly lyrical, hauntingly reverberant sound that's been compared to a bow drawn across the strings of an upright bass. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Special Consensus: The Ark. This ace bluegrass band from Chicago, led by banjoist Greg Cahill, is known for high-energy, foot-stomping shows. Its repertoire includes bluegrass standards, originals, and contemporary tunes. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Brazilian Guitar Festival: University Musical Society. Performances by some of Brazil's best classical guitarists. The Grammy-winning **Assad Brothers**—Sergio and Odair Assad—began playing guitar together more than 40 years ago. Known for their wide-ranging repertoire and ultraprecise synchronization, the brothers have established new performance standards for classical guitar duos. "With their maturity and dazzling technical skills, the Assads easily qualify as masters in the house that [Segovia] built," says an NPR critic. They have just released their 7th CD, *Jardim Abandonado*. Also featured: **Badi Assad** (the Assad Brothers' sister), a guitarist who combines emotive power with experimentalism, along with guitarist **Romero Lubambo,** who has played with everyone from Al Jarreau to Dianne Reeves, and virtuoso multi-instrumentalist **Celso Machado.** The program includes works by Heitor Villa-Lobos, Egberto Gismonti, and Astor Piazzolla. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $22–$46 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Stravinsky Revisited": U-M Dance Company. *January 31 & February 1–3.* This U-M dance-student company presents a program highlighted by an adaptation of the *Rite of Spring* ballet by the renowned Philadelphia hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris,** with additional text and music layered onto the Stravinsky score by composer Darien Ross. Also, works by guest choreographers **Daniel Gwirtzman,** a U-M dance grad who directs his own New York City-based company, and **Ginger Thatcher,** a former Lar Lubovitch Dance Company member who has worked for ballet, opera, and dance companies around the country, along with U-M dance professors **Amy Chavasse** and **Jessica Fogel.** Gwirtzman's *Village* is a dance inspired by the folk traditions of Eastern European villages that's set to 7 brief movements from *Instrumental Miniatures, Norwegian Moods,* and 2 other Stravinsky works. Thatcher's *Shadow*



Cleveland-based klezmer band Yiddishe Cup performs at the Ark Feb. 2.

Dances is a setting of Stravinsky's *Ebony Concerto* that explores the idea of light, shadows, and the realms in between. Chavasse's *Swimming the English Channel* is a setting of 5 Stravinsky works composed between 1906 and 1940 that pays oblique tribute to historical events contemporaneous with the composition of the music. Fogel's *In the House* is a mosaic of fragments from 16 of her earlier works exploring the layering, resurgence, and alternation of memories. It is set to a new score by U-M music professor Stephen Rush that embeds 2 Stravinsky fragments, one from *Symphony of Psalms* and the other from *Pastorale*. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 & $24 (students, $9) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

★"An Evening of Scenes": U-M Residential College Players. *February 1 & 2.* RC students direct and perform a program of short scenes on a variety of topics and in a variety of styles, many written by RC students. *8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)": Greenhills School Voodoo Theater Company. *February 1 & 2.* Greenhills students perform the Reduced Shakespeare Company's acclaimed 97-minute transformation of Shakespeare's 37 plays into a fast-paced, hilarious, and outrageously irreverent blend of Marx Brothers-style absurdity and Three Stooges slapstick. The program opens with an acrobatic travesty of *Romeo and Juliet* and features *Titus Andronicus* performed as a cooking show, a rap version of Othello, a condensation of the 14 comedies into an orgy of mixed identities and cross dressing that goes under the title *The Love Boat Goes to Verona*, and a collective treatment of the history plays as a football game. The second half of the show is devoted to four versions of *Hamlet*, including one performed backwards. *8 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Tickets (cost TBA) available in advance and at the door. 205–4057.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wednesday–Sunday, January 17–March 8.* Guy Sanville directs the world premiere of Livonia playwright David MacGregor's edgy comedy about 2 couples spending Halloween with a bottle of ceremonial South American wine made from the skins of tree frogs. The cast includes Phil Powers, Suzi Regan, Quetta Carpenter, and Tommy Gomez. *8 p.m., Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $25 (Wed. & Thurs.), $30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $35 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thursday–Sunday, January 10–February 10.* David Wolber directs this production of Stephen Temperley's 2005 play about the self-proclaimed coloratura soprano who managed to sustain an improbably successful career that culminated in 1944 with a sold-out Carnegie Hall performance—even though she couldn't carry a tune, suffered from an uncertain sense of rhythm, and often lost her voice entirely in the upper register. The action centers on the relationship between Jenkins and her accompanist, Cosme McMoon, who grows from an embarrassed employee to an admirer and friend. Stars Naz Edwards and Fred Love. *Note:* Beloved local theater veteran Jim Posante directed this production until his sudden and unexpected death while it was in previews. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $30 (Thurs. & Sat. matinee), $35 (Fri. & Sun.), and $42 (Sat. eve.) available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over, $10 discounts available (except Sat. eve.) for students. Half-price student rush tickets & $10 tickets for age 16 & under available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

Brian Kiley: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *January 31 and February 1 & 2.* Ann Arbor debut of this Conan O'Brien staff writer, a frequent performer on cable and network TV who's known for his fresh, sharp observational humor with a whimsical or even surreal edge. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Friday Night Swing: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/AACTMAD. *Every Friday.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by beginner lessons (8 p.m.). *8:45–11:45 p.m., Dakota Building, 1785 W. Stadium. $5 (includes lessons). 972–9141.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" (Julian Schnabel, 2007). *February 1–7.* A massive stroke at age 42 leaves a man with no way to communicate except by blinking one eye. Based on a French memoir. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

2 SATURDAY

"Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Park naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a morning hike to look for birds in a variety of habitats and record their locations. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *8 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

★"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube." *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads a session of these slow meditative movements for beginning to advanced practitioners. *9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free. 930–2747.*

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Saturday.* 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone or change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

★Walk: Grex. *Every Saturday (different locations).* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Nature Area (February 2) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (February 9, 16, & 23). *10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Nature Area (Feb. 2) and in Gallup Park parking lot (Feb. 9, 16, & 23), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741–9351.*

"Sciencepalooza": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *February 2 & 3.* This popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area features an array of attended hands-on activity tables. This month's program: **"CSI Ann Arbor."** *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Feb. 2) & noon–5 p.m. (Feb. 3), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

"Flakes in the Arb": U-M Nichols Arboretum. Local naturalist Robert Ayotte leads a hike and discusses how to identify winter trees. *10 a.m.–noon, meet at the Reader Center, 1610 Washington Hts. $5 (mem-*

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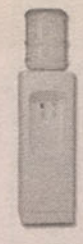

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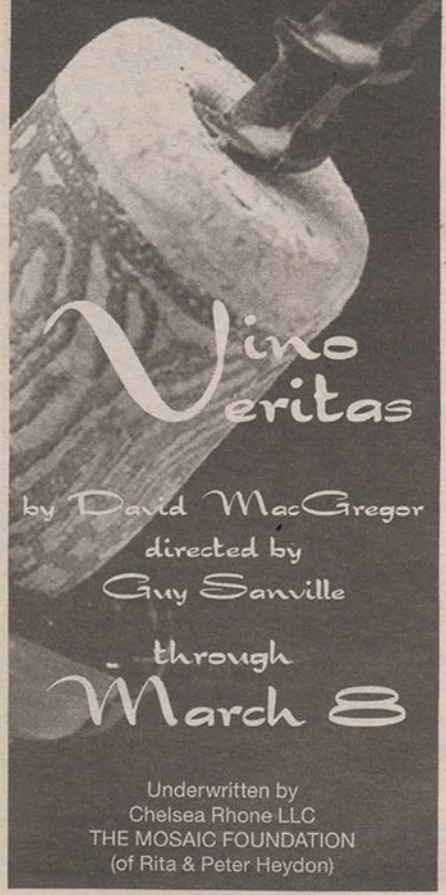
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directed by
Guy Sanville
through
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bers & students, $4). Preregistration required. 647–7600.

★**"Rethinking Trade Agreements and Globalization": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Talk by U-M aerospace engineering professor William Kauffman. Followed by discussion. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway.** *February 2 & 16.* Indoor dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Hobby equipment sale by Rider's Hobby. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m. -midnight (doors open at 8 a.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. (313) 565–2815.*

★**"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department.** *February 2, 9, & 16.* Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M physics professors. Today: Gus Evrard on **"Adventitious Machinery: Our Heritage as Amplified Noise."** Also this month: Sera Cremonini on **"What Is String Theory Anyway?"** (February 9) and **"String Theory: What Is It Good For?"** (February 16). Breakfast refreshments. *10:30–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 501 East University. Free. 764–4437.*

★**Storytime: Nicola's Books.** *Every Saturday.* Storytelling program for kids ages 2½–7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"The Sky Tonight"/"Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday.* The debut show using the museum's state-of-the-art new Uniview digital planetarium system. *The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Black Holes* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an animated audiovisual show that begins with the formation of the early universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. Followed by a brief star talk. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 449–4300.*

★**"Mandy and Pandy Say, 'Ni Hao Ma?' ": Barnes & Noble.** Children's educator Chris Lin and his stuffed panda introduces kids to his board book and CD that offer a fun, interactive way to learn Chinese. *Noon–3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 973–0846.*

★**"Big Game": Whole Foods Market.** A chance to sample party recipe ideas and pick up recipes for the big game. *1–5 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

"Super Bowl Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to wear their favorite professional football apparel and receive a minifootball for fun on the ice. *1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $5 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $4). Skate rentals available ($3). 761–7240.*

★**"Arts, Culture, and Emotional Well-Being": Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute/U-M School of Music.** Panel discussion with Ann Arbor mayor **John Hieftje,** Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce CEO **Jesse Bernstein,** local psychoanalyst and musician **Julie Nagel,** and U-M piano professor **Louis Nagel.** Refreshments. *1:30–3 p.m., Stearns room TBA, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 761–4764.*

★**"Mystery of the Missing Groundhog": Waterloo Recreation Area.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh and other Waterloo staff present their original puppet show about a reporter's efforts to discover where the groundhog is hibernating. *2–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

"Groundhog Day Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Park naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike to look for groundhogs and other signs of spring. *2 p.m., Hudson Mills*

classical music

TRISTAN COOK

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Four hands are better than two

When was the last time you heard a recital of four-hand piano music? At one time it was all the rage. Long before there was an iPod in every ear, there was a piano in every living room. And people played them, sometimes alone and sometimes with a second player; hence, four-hand piano music.

But professional four-hand piano music in these digital days? It's never done—well, almost never. On Saturday, February 2, the University Musical Society will present a project by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center called *A Celebration of the Keyboard: Music for Piano, Four Hands*. Those four hands will be provided by three duos made up from CMS pianists Wu Han, Inon Barnatan, Gilbert Kalish, Anne-Marie McDermott, André-Michel Schub, and Gilles Vonsattel.

The works on the program are divided between those for four hands at one piano and those for four hands at two pianos. The former include Mozart's Andante and Five Variations in G Major and Fauré's *Dolly Suite*. The latter include Mendelssohn's Andante and Variations in B-flat Major, Lutoslawski's *Variations on a Theme of Paganini*, and, towering above all the others, Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*.

For some, imagining what Mozart, Mendelssohn, or Fauré's supremely elegant music might sound like played by four hands is relatively easy. Superb craftsmen as they were, all can be counted on to match the material to the medium. But for most of us, it takes some good guesswork to imagine what Lutoslawski's Polish modernist take on Paganini's famous theme would sound like. And for almost everybody, Stravinsky's epoch-making *Le Sacre du Printemps* shorn of its orchestration is simply inconceivable. Without the mighty modern symphony orchestra's screaming strings, keening woodwinds, blasting brass, and bludgeoning percussion, what's left?

As those who've heard one of the rare recordings of *Le Sacre* in its composer's four-hand arrangement will attest, what's left is revelatory. Often lost in the orchestral undergrowth are themes, harmonies, and counterpoints that stand out starkly illuminated in the clear, hard light cast by only four hands. In its familiar orchestral incarnation, *Le Sacre* sounds like life itself burgeoning forth in all its streaming multitudes. In its two-piano incarnation, it sounds like a clockwork mechanism cunningly constructed to simulate life. Whether this is a reduction or a refinement is up to the listener—but there's no doubt that the sound of four hands flailing away at *Le Sacre* has to be heard to be believed.

—James Leonard

Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for age 62 & over). 426–8211.

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m., call for winter location. Free. 761–1115.*

★**"The Dangerous Club for Boys": Barnes & Noble.** All boys and girls invited for activities based on Conn and Hal Iggulden's best-selling *Dangerous Book for Boys*. *2–4 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 763–1618.*

"Junior Miss Washtenaw Pageant": Miss Michigan Scholarship Program. Contestants ages 5–13 compete in 3 age divisions in categories that include private interview, onstage introductions, and presence and poise. Emcees for the evening are Miss Washtenaw County 2007, Alicia Jaros, and Washtenaw's Outstanding Teen 2007, Pantea Sokansanj. Finalists in both divisions qualify for a state pageant. *2 p.m. (preteens) & 5 p.m. (teens), Washington Street Education Center, 500 Washington St. (west of Freer), Chelsea. Preteen competition, free; teen competition $8 (kids 6–12, free) at the door only. 475–2734.*

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $10. 662–8283.*

"A Winter's Twilight Hike (and Soup!)": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. A county naturalist TBA leads a walk through the twilight. Followed by soup and bread. *4–7 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. $4. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $5/day ($2.50 for age 62 & over), $25/year. 971–6337.*

Singers of United Lands (S. O. U. L.): U-M Ecumenical Center and International Residence. This quartet of young adult professional singers performs songs from the singers' native countries of Brazil, the Czech Republic, Georgia, and Zimbabwe. Proceeds benefit the Ecumenical Center and International Residence and the Wesley Foundation. *4 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State St. $10 & $25 (students, $5) in advance at the Ecumenical Center (921 Church St.) and at the door. 662–5529.*

★**"Family Fun Night": West Side United Methodist Church.** Parents and kids invited to a pizza dinner followed by a series of 4 animal-related crafts, science projects, and games. Also, a talk about the Heifer Project, an acclaimed charity that supplies farm animals to poor people around the world. *5–8 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free. Preregistration required. 663–4164.*

★**Leland Austin: Nicola's Books.** This local rolfer discusses ***The Boy and the Shark,*** a children's book that he wrote and his son illustrated. Also, signing. *2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**20th Annual "Big Rack Night."** This very popular annual contest for white-tailed deer hunters attracts around 400 people. The top 12 award winners in the firearms and archery categories, and the top winners in the muzzle loading, ladies, and youth divisions are invited to go onstage, display their antlers, and swap hunting stories. Also, talks by guest speakers with unusual or outstanding racks. Additional overall prize for "biggest rack" (number, size, and mass of points on the 2 horns). Refreshments. *5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free admission. 439–7919.*

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *February 2 & 9.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *5:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

★**Brideog: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join local pagans to reenact an ancient Irish custom by traveling between participating houses with a straw doll representing Brid, the Irish goddess of the hearth. House-blessing and singing. *Early evening time and location TBA. Free. 262–1052.*

★**Children's Movie: Arborland Borders.** *Every Saturday.* Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. *6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

"27th Annual King's Feast": 21st Annual U-M Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Dinner, and a talk by local Second Baptist Church pastor Mark Lyons on Dr. King's legacy. Also, student performances and reflections TBA. Semiformal attire. *6 p.m., Michigan League. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 936–1055.*

Performance Network Benefit Gala. Cocktails and dinner, followed by performances by a Greenhills School jazz combo and the cast of the popular Performance Network production of *The Baker's Wife*. Live and silent auctions. *6:30 p.m., Kensington Court, 610 Hilton Blvd. Tickets $125 in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Dandia Dhamaka": U-M Raas Core 7th Annual Intercollegiate Indian Dance Competition. The nation's premier intercollegiate competition of traditional Indian *raas* dance is an extremely lively affair featuring 8 to 10 dance teams from around the nation. The fast-paced, playful raas style originated in ancient times in the northwestern Indian state of Gujarat as part of the Navratri festival that honors Hindu goddesses. It involves rotating circles and changing geometric shapes of elaborately dressed male and female singing dancers who pepper the dance with flourishes and gesture with decorated rods known as *dandia*. The U-M Raas team is the defending champion. *6:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $13–$15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"A Party in Paris: Mardi Gras 2008": 23rd Annual Celebration: Washtenaw Community College. An evening of fun and frolic with dinner, wine, and dancing. The evening kicks off with a sumptuous feast created by the WCC culinary arts and hospitality department and music by jazz guitarist John Lawrence, followed by dancing to jazz by the **Bugs Beddow Band,** a Detroit ensemble led by trombonist Beddow. Guests encouraged to come in costume or formal dress. All proceeds benefit WCC scholarships. *6:30 p.m., WCC Student Center Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $150 in advance only. 973–3665.*

★**"From the Vine: Exploring Michigan Wineries": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Michiganvine.com cofounder **Sharon Kegerreis** discusses this survey she cowrote with her Michigan Vine partner Lorri Hathaway and offers taste samples from some of Michigan's 50 wineries. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"Torch Songs and Toe Tappers": Out Loud Chorus. See 1 Friday. The late show is followed by dancing ($5; free to ticketholders) to recorded music. *7 & 9 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main.*

14th Annual Hometown Concert: Saline Fiddlers. Traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk by this renowned touring fiddle ensemble of 30 students. Tonight's headliner is the **Infamous Stringdusters,** a highly regarded

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769.7966 info@annarborcoopnursery.com

★STONE SCHOOL CO-OP NURSERY
Saturday, February 16 10AM - 12PM
2600 Packard Street, Ann Arbor
www.stoneschool.org
971.4820 stone@stoneschool.org

★GLACIER WAY WESTSIDE CO-OP
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18

THE FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES'
18th ANNUAL BELIN LECTURE
with BETH WENGER
author of *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*, companion to the recent PBS documentary.

Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Forum Hall, Palmer Commons, University of Michigan
100 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Free & open to the general public. Call 763-9047 or visit www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic for more information

You are invited to
Ash Wednesday
Meditative Worship for Campus & Community

An ecumenical service of Scripture, prayers, silence, meditative singing of music from the Taizé Community, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion

February 6, 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
1432 Washtenaw - 662-4466

Sponsored by the campus ministries and congregations of Campus Chapel, Ann Arbor Christian Reformed, First Presbyterian, and Lord of Light Lutheran Churches

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Brian Wood, *Plum*. Ink and photograph on mylar, 77" x 42"

Brian Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa"

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February 2008 Events

Lecture: **"American Vaudeville and Popular Culture"** ✦

Presented by Leigh Woods, Professor of Theatre, The University of Michigan
Thursday, February 7 • 7:30 p.m. • Riverside Conference Room

Discover Vaudeville's place in American popular culture from the 1890s into the 1930s. Professor Woods discusses his recent book, "Transatlantic Stage Stars in Vaudeville and Variety" and current works in progress, and measures Vaudeville against the efforts of famous actors who entered there and the audiences they entertained.

Music: **"Works for Organ"** ✦

Mark Schultz, Assistant Professor of Music and University Organist • Concordia University
Sunday, February 10 • 4:00 p.m. • Chapel of the Holy Trinity

In his inaugural concert as university organist, Mark Schultz presents a recital with selections from Bach, Buxtehude, Brahms, and several more recent composers for organ. The program will also feature flutist Holly Clemens, adjunct professor at Concordia University.

Books and Coffee: **"Pride and Prejudice"**
Pride and Prejudice in the 21st Century: Jane Austen's Persistent Popularity ✦

Discussion led by Dr. Barbara Adler, Professor of Communication and Ruth Zielke, Visiting Instructor of English
Tuesday, February 12 • 4:00 p.m. • Earhart Manor Living Room

Jane Austen's "Pride & Prejudice," maintains an enduring interest 200 years after its first publication. Why do we have a prolonged intrigue with three or four country families? Is it the fascination evoked by the story's heroine, Elizabeth Bennet? Are we nostalgic for an era of polite manners and romance? Or could it be that we are searching for further insight into the nature of true love and friendship?

Gallery: **Brian Wood** ✦

February 12–March 19
Opening Reception: February 21 • 7–9 p.m.
Gallery Talk with Brian Wood at 7:30 p.m.

Brian Wood's works are included in the collections of museums around the world, from New York to Cologne to Prague. Wood resides in New York City, and teaches at Hunter College-New York. In his own description, the links between photography and drawing, the two media Wood uses in his work, are not based on rational correspondence, but rather on connections of emotion and movements of imagination.

Theatre: **Concordia University Theatre Presents "Dancing at Lughnasa" by Brian Friel**

February 14*, 15, 16 at 8:00 p.m.
February 17 at 2:30 p.m.
Kreft Center Black Box Theatre • Tickets: $10
*tickets two for the price of one

Winner of the 1992 Tony Award for Best Play, "Dancing at Lughnasa" is widely regarded as Brian Friel's masterpiece. The play is narrated by Michael as he remembers the five women who raised him and the three events, from the summer when he was seven, which inevitably spring the cracks that would destroy the foundation of the family forever.

✦ *Denotes events that are free.*

young bluegrass band from Nashville that blends traditional instrumentation and vocal styling with a penchant for jam-style improvisation. It was the first band ever to win the International Bluegrass Music Association awards for Album of the Year, Song of the Year, and Emerging Artist in a single year. Fiddlers shows always sell out, so get tickets early. *7:30 p.m., Saline High School auditorium, 1300 Campus Pkwy. (off Industrial, north from E. Michigan), Saline. Tickets $10–$20 by reservation and (if available) at the door. (866) 257–5333.*

"A Lie of the Mind": Pioneer Theater Guild. See 1 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Big Mary": Community High Theater Ensemble. See 1 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. *February 2 & 16.* Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. $5. 433–0308.*

First Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Contra dancing with Marlin Whitaker calling to music by The Millers. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m., 769–4220. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"Texas Hold 'Em Tournament": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. All invited to play this popular poker game to benefit the Civic Theatre in a venue decorated to look like an old-West saloon—"who knows, we might even evoke the spirit of Miss Kitty," say organizers. Prizes. Also, silent auction. Refreshments available. Door prizes. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), Hathaway's Hideaway, 213 S. Ashley. $50. 971–2228.*

Vivo Sinfonietta: University Lutheran Chapel Common Cup. Brett Luginbill conducts this local chamber ensemble in Faure's *Pelleas et Melisande* and Dvorak's *Serenade for Winds. 8 p.m., Common Cup (lower level), 1511 Washtenaw. $15 (students, $10). 327–6914.*

★Diane Winder: EMU Music Department. This EMU cello professor premieres local composer Gregory Hamilton's *Memory*, and she is joined by EMU piano professor **Garik Pedersen** for Chopin's Sonata, a tour-de-force for cello and keyboard. EMU harp professor **Ruth Myers Brown** and guest flutist **Penelope Fischer** join Winder for the premiere of 3 Latin-inspired works by L.A. composer Christopher Caliendo, and Winder is joined by EMU and other students and local professionals for the premiere of the opening movement of EMU grad Laurie Jarski's *Travel Modalities* for 16 cellos. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"A Celebration of the Keyboard: Music for Piano, Four Hands": University Musical Society. *See review, p. 43.* Six pianists from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center perform chamber works for four-hand piano. The performers include 3 rising stars—Taiwanese pianist (and CMS artistic codirector) **Wu Han, Inon Barnatan,** and **Gilles Vonsattel—**and 3 established pianists—**Gilbert Kalish, Anne-Marie McDermott,** and **Andre-Michel Schub.** The program is highlighted by Han and Kalish's performance of Stravinsky's setting of his monumental *Rite of Spring* for 2 pianos. Also, Mozart's Andante and Five Variations in G Major for Piano, Mendelssohn's Andante and Variations in B-flat Major for Two Pianos, Faure's *Dolly Suite for Piano Four-Hand*, Lutoslawski's *Variations on a Theme of Paganini for Two Pianos. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$56 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Yiddishe Cup: The Ark. Acclaimed Cleveland-based klezmer band known for its blend of ensemble virtuosity and wacky humor rooted in a 50s Borscht Belt ethos, with a repertoire ranging from traditional material to "Gentle on My Mind" and "Meshugeneh Mambo," the title track of its latest CD. Dance floor available. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★"Hip-Hop Congress Midwest Summit": 21st Annual U-M Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. See 1 Friday. Tonight: performances by **Baatin** from Slum Village, **One Be Lo, Invincible, Versiz, Supa Emcee, 5 ELA,** and other hip-hop MCs. Also, this afternoon, a **panel discussion** with Public Enemy MC **Professor Griff** and others TBA

galleries

Letters to Sala

A teenager's life in Nazi camps

During World War II, sixteen-year-old Polish Jew Sala Garncarz was sent to a Nazi slave labor camp. She brought along a leather satchel. In between inspections and camp work, she gave the satchel to fellow prisoners, buried it, or hid it. It came with her to America in 1946 when she was a new war bride.

Then its contents went into hiding again, for the next fifty years. Finally, facing heart surgery in 1996, Sala gave her daughter its contents: more than 350 letters, postcards, and birthday cards (right) handmade by prisoners. The items are scheduled to be on display this month in the Graduate Library's new first-floor gallery.

The exhibit has eight triptychs, each with a three-foot-square center panel and smaller side panels, the shape suggesting an unfolded letter. The panels show images of correspondence sent to Sala by her family, first from her village of Sosnowiec and later from labor camps in Germany and occupied Poland. One image is a jagged page of the diary Sala began on the day of her deportation:

If you could have looked deep in my heart, you would have seen how desperate I was; still I tried to keep a smile on my face as best I could, though my eyes were filled with tears.

Other entries echo that optimism:

. . . we ate breakfast. One of the girls had brought with her [at deportation] some Lithuanian cheese, which she shared with us. We also had bread and butter—an excellent breakfast. For dinner we had cabbage soup, quite tasty too.

Similar austerity back home in Sosnowiec appears in a letter from Sala's sister Raizel:

. . . we still don't have a sweater for you. There is none to be had at the community and we are so broke that we can't afford to buy you one. . . . I could send you mine . . . it might be a little small . . . maybe we should send you [your sister] Blima's green dress, but it has short sleeves.

Letters from home, each bearing a stamped Z from Nazi censors, used code, like Raizel's description of a deportation:

Imagine, I was invited to a wedding. Chajka Szpiro already left to go there, but

I didn't go because I wasn't home when the invitation came.

One snapshot shows Sala smiling with Harry, a man she met at the camp Gross Paniow. They vowed that if separated, they'd meet after the war in Prague. After liberation, Sala went to Prague, but Harry refused to meet her. He telegraphed: "I am alive. Wait for letter." That letter is not on display. He had married another woman.

At the first postwar synagogue services Sala attended, she met an American army colonel. After he returned home, he sent her a happier letter, planning their imminent wedding.

The letters may be viewed at the Graduate Library North Gallery February 2–28.

—Laura Bien

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 West Liberty. *Geometrically Defined* and *The AAAC Student Show: Creativity Captured 2008* (February 22–March 28). Reception 22 Friday, 6–8 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue. *Lake Michigan Dunescapes* (February 4–March 14). 327–4510.

Clay Gallery, 110 East Liberty. *Function Revisited* (February 1–28). 662–7927.

Dreamland Theater, 26 North Washington, Ypsilanti. *Works by Chris Sandon* (February 8–29). 657–2337.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, East Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall. *First Annual Senior B.F.A. Exhibition* (February 11–March 6). 487–1268.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood. *The Four Seasons* (February 19–March 20). 487–0465.

Gallery Project, 215 South Fourth Avenue. *Surface* (February 20–March 20). 997–7012.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). *Blessings: Acrylic on Canvas; Landscapes, Creatures, and Sky; K-12 Student Group Show; U-M Football Portraits; Vintage Meets Modern: Eclectic Silver Jewelry; Awareness, Reverence, Transcendence: Color & Ink Drawings & Mixed Media* (February 25–March 16). 936–ARTS.

Kreft Center for the Arts (Concordia University), 4090 Geddes. *Brian Wood F* (February 12–March 19). 995–7591.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *Fifth Annual EMU Art Masters Association Invitational Exhibition* (February 7–March 1). Reception 9 Saturday, 5–7 p.m. 487–ARTS.

U-M Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal. *Men in Tights (and Skirts, Lipstick, and Rouge): 100 Years of the Michigan Union Opera* (through May 31). 764–3482.

U-M Clements Library, 909 South University. *Niagara Falls: From Obstacle to Attraction* (February 5–May 30). 764–2347.

U-M Harlan Hatcher North, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, first floor. *Letters to Sala* (February 2–28). See review, above. 764–0400.

U-M Slusser Gallery, 2000 Bonisteel. *Psycho-Trope* (February 9–March 2). Reception 2 Saturday, 6–8:30 p.m. 763–4417.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, seventh floor. *Enchanting Ruin: Tintern Abbey and Romantic Tourism in Wales* (February 15–May 10). 764–9377.

U-M Work, 306 South State. *eBay a Day: Documents* (February 9–March 2). Reception 9 Saturday, 6–9 p.m., and cabaret performance 9 Saturday, 9 p.m. 998–6178.

Washington Street Gallery, 120 East Liberty. *WSG Artist Member Show* (February 19–March 30). 761–2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2007–2008 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

(2:10–3:50 p.m., Michigan Union room TBA). 8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan Union Pendleton Room.

"Stravinsky Revisited": U-M Dance Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)": Greenhills School Voodoo Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"An Evening of Scenes": U-M Residential College Players.** See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Brian Kiley: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. *February 2 & 16.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5. 945–8428.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. *February 2, 15, & 29.* All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

★**"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** *February 2 & 16.* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *10 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room (Feb. 2) & Anderson Room (Feb. 16). Free. 973–2338.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" (Julian Schnabel, 2007). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

3 SUNDAY

★**"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to join informal runs of 5–7 miles along various scenic routes. *8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657–0214.*

★**Falun Gong.** *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834–4978.*

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Sunday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *9 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 761–6253 (morning ride), 994–5908 (afternoon ride).*

★**Meditation: Tsogyelgar Dharma Center.** *Every Sunday.* Traktung Yeshe Dorje leads a silent sitting, followed at 11 a.m. by Tantric meditation. *10 a.m., Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free. 663–3842.*

★**Ultimate Pickup Game: H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to a laid-back pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Beginners welcome. *Midmorning time TBA, Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★**Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to join a chanting meditation. *10–11 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★**Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** *Every Sunday.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★**Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *February 3 & 24.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today's topic: Gehlek discusses **"Compassion in Daily Life."** Also this month: Tony King discusses **"Born to Be Free"** (February 24). *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Center, 119 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

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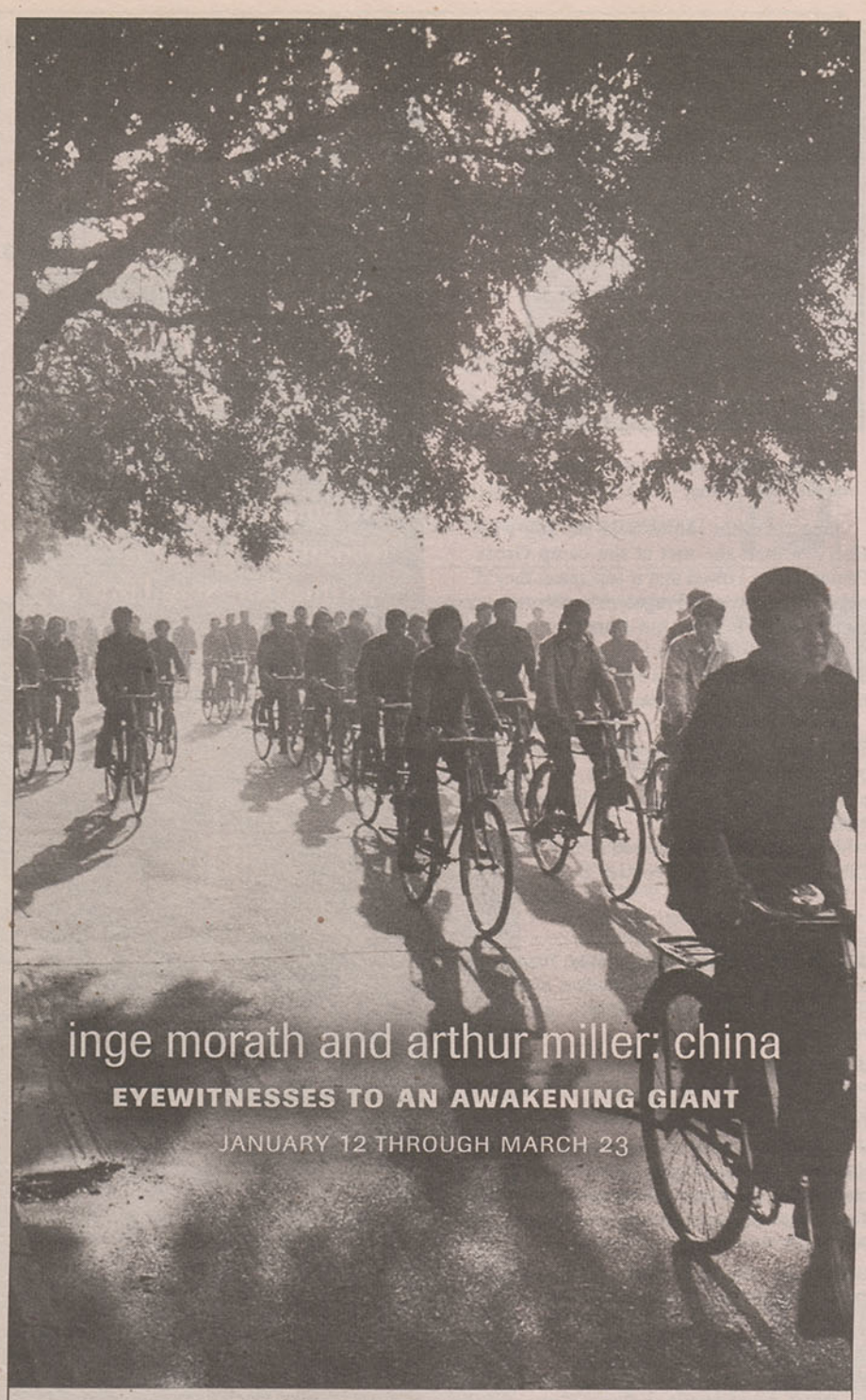

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1301 South University at South Forest. Ann Arbor. Photography. Film. Video. A temporary gallery space open during the expansion and restoration of the University of Michigan **Museum of Art**. www.umma.umich.edu 734.763.UMMA

The exhibition was curated by John P. Jacob, Director, The Inge Morath Foundation, and organized by The Inge Morath Foundation, New York.

The Ann Arbor presentation is made possible in part by the Office of the President of the University of Michigan, The University of Michigan Health System, Comerica Bank, the Lois Zenkel Photographic Exhibitions Fund, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and other generous partners.

Inge Morath, *6:30 am, Chang An Avenue, Beijing* (detail), Copyright 1978–83 The Inge Morath Foundation/Magnum Photos

3 SUNDAY *continued*

★**"Campbell and Campbell, 'The China Study'": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Retired Montessori teacher Winifred Wylie discusses this landmark 2005 study of the correlation between animal-based diets and disease. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

★**"From Sumeria to Brooklyn: The Long, Strange Trip of the Jewish People": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** *February 3 & 17.* First in a series of biweekly talks by JCS member Larry Kuperman. Snack & beverage provided. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Presbyterian member Norm Samuelson discusses Howard Zinn's ***Terrorism and War.*** Also this month: a group discussion about **"Valentine's Day"** (February 10), potluck brunch (bring a dish to pass) and general discussion (February 17), and First Presbyterian member Brian Williams discusses **"Looking Back, Looking Forward: My Service Trip to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina"** (February 24). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**First Presbyterian Church Adult Education.** *Every Sunday except February 24.* Today: First Presbyterian resident minister Deborah Knott discusses **"The Plight of Christians in Southern Sudan."** Also this month: U-M sociology professor Silvia Pedraza discusses **"Cuba at a Crossroads: Religion and Society"** (February 10), and India Sunday School Union general secretary Ajit Prasadam, a minister in residence at Grosse Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church, discusses **"Christian Education within the Indian Context"** (February 17). All invited. *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Lewis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Hillside Terrace, 1939 Jackson. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sunday & Thursday.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. (The 1st Sunday of each month begins with an hour of formal instruction.) Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., The Mind Body Spirit Academe, 1785 W. Stadium. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★**"Light Building 101": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce getDowntown Program.** Local bike commuter and LAB-certified bike instructor Pete Hines compares the benefits of homemade vs. commercial light systems for your bikes. *1–2 p.m., Chamber of Commerce, 115 W. Huron. Free. 214–0100.*

"Max and Ruby": Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City–based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present a lavishly staged production of its new musical adaptation of Rosemary Wells's books and animated TV series about the escapades of 2 bunny siblings. Theatreworks origins date from 1961, when *Young Abe Lincoln* became the first young people's musical to play on Broadway. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $14 (MTF members, $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Tracks, Scat, and More: Be a Wildlife Detective!": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** A county naturalist TBA leads a walk to look for signs of such winter animals as deer, bunnies, foxes, muskrats, and beavers. *2 p.m., Burns-Stokes Preserve, Zeeb Rd. at the Huron River (just south of Huron River Dr.), Scio Twp. Free. 971–6337.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *2–3 p.m., Oz's, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Winter Time with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769–3115.*

★**"Inge Morath and Arthur Miller: China": U-M Museum of Art.** *February 3, 14, 17, & 28.* Docent-guided tour of this exhibit. *2 p.m. (Feb. 3 & 17) & 7 p.m. (Feb. 14 & 28), UMMA Off/Site, 1301 South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"Food in Chinese Culture": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Chinese American Educational and Cultural Center of Michigan president Elizabeth Chiu King. In conjunction with 2008 Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Reads (see 10 Sunday listing). *2–3:30 p.m., AADL meeting room (4th floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Indian Family Cultural Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library.** Family-oriented program of traditional Indian dancing, craft activities, and treats. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Stravinsky Revisited": U-M Dance Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"NIA Superbowl Jam": Ann Arbor Yoga Works.** A chance to try this fun, easy, nonimpact aerobics technique, done to prerecorded music. Wear comfy workout clothes and, if you like, your favorite football team jersey. Food and drinks provided. *4–7 p.m., 1785 Stadium, suite 101. Free. 216–4006.*

★**"Traditional Thai Pottery": Yourist Pottery.** Screening of Louis Katz's playful, absorbing 1991 video about the handmade pottery industry in 5 small Thai villages. *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★**"Beethoven: The Sonata Obsession": U-M School of Music.** *February 3 & 7 (different programs).* U-M music students perform the 6th and 7th in a 2-year series of concerts featuring Beethoven's complete sonatas. Today's program: Sonata in F Major for Piano and French Horn, Sonata in A Minor for Piano and Violin, and Sonata in F Major for Piano and Violin. *4 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 2116 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sunday.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sunday except February 24.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $3. (419) 283–8025, 763–6984.*

FILMS

Melange Subterranean Bistro. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." *Every Sunday.* Dinner (salad, entree, & dessert) followed by screening of a classic movie. Menu items range from $5 to $30. Space limited; reservations recommended. 222–0202. Tonight: ***Rocky*** (John G. Avildsen, 1976). The classic saga of a small-time Philadelphia boxer who nearly wins a grueling, blood-soaked title fight. Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire, Burgess Meredith. Melange (314 S. Main), 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"** (Julian Schnabel, 2007). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

4 MONDAY

★**"Monday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 or 55–65 miles, to either the Munith or Stockbridge area. *9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Monday.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10 a.m.–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 663–5907.*

Joe Henry

Songs that get their hooks in you

I first encountered Joe Henry's name when I heard Garth Brooks's "Belleau Wood," a fabulously detailed and evocative song about the Christmas truce of 1914. Henry started out in country and Americana music, cowrote "Belleau Wood," and has since had the labels of "rock," "folk," and "alternative" attached to his own recordings. No genre label has stuck, which may explain why this superb songwriter has remained largely unknown in this world of machines that break music down into its attributes and use them to channel your tastes automatically. But between the Brooks song, some work as a producer, and a cut recorded by his sister-in-law, Madonna (the tango-flavored "Stop," which she retitled "Don't Tell Me"), he's had the wherewithal to do as he pleases, something rarer in popular music than is generally thought.

MELANIE NISSEN

The result has been a body of songs that are startling in their combination of complexity and emotional power. Henry's voice sounds a bit like Randy Newman's, and a great deal like that of Mississippi songwriter Steve Forbert. The song's the thing, and the unclassifiability of Henry's music comes from his mix of song types, which he joins to really ambitious lyrics in such a way as to put a unique twist on the music. His superb new album, *Civilians*, opens with the cool shuffle beat of the title track. The song is a meditation on the toxic atmosphere of war as it seeps through a society—our society. The lyric takes some concentration, but, as Henry often does, he pulls you through the door with a killer hook: "Life is short but, by the grace of God,/ The night is long."

Sometimes the line that grabs your attention comes at the beginning. The centerpiece of *Civilians* is "Our Song," which opens this way:

I saw Willie Mays
At a Scottsdale Home Depot,
Looking at garage door springs
At the far end of the fourteenth row.

The song broadens outward to a bitter lament for "this frightful and this angry land" that "might still somehow make me a better man," circles back through its aging narrator, and returns at the end to "the greatest center fielder of all time, stooped by the burden of endless dreams—his and yours and mine." It's a virtuoso effort that, like so many of Henry's pieces, will give any true lover of the songwriter's art enough to chew on for weeks.

If for no other reason, I'd be in Henry's corner merely because the lyrics in his CD booklet have accurate punctuation (see if you can think of another one). And also because, although it's not well known, he's a product of our town—he got an English degree from the U-M and started making his music while he was still here. Joe Henry will be back at the Ark on Monday, February 4.

—James M. Manheim

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** *Every Monday.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Monday through February 18.* Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Play days are also offered through the week of February 18 at the Malletts Creek (Tuesdays, 10–11 a.m., & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Northeast (Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

U-M Club of Ann Arbor. *February 4, 11, 18, & 25.* Weekly lunchtime talks by new U-M men's basketball coach **John Beilein**, who is joined by other U-M coaches, including baseball coach **Rich Maloney** (today), men's and women's golf coaches **Andrew Sapp and Kathy Teichert** (February 11), women's track coach **James Henry** (February 18), and a speaker TBA (February 25). *11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $14 (members, $9; seniors, $8.50). 663–7420.*

★**"Cancer Prevention and Survival Cooking Course": Whole Foods Market.** *February 4, 11, 18, & 25.* Jan Kemp, a local representative of the D.C.-based nonprofit the Cancer Project, shows how to prepare foods thought to help prevent cancer. Today: **"Discovering Dairy Alternatives."** Also this month: **"Replacing Meat"** (February 11), **"Planning Healthy Meals"** (February 18), and **"Antioxidants and Phytochemicals"** (February 25). *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★**"The Breakdown of Morals in Asia: Do Youth in Hanoi, Shanghai, and Taipei Smoke, Drink, and Fornicate More Because of Heterogeneous Neighborhood Norms?": U-M Population Studies Center.** Talk by Johns Hopkins University public health professor David Bishai. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, ISR, 426 Thompson. Free. 998–7275.*

"Yoga at the Gardens": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. *February 4, 11, 18, & 25.* Local yoga instructor Janine Bennett leads a session of Vinyasa-style hatha yoga sun salutations and postures to recorded music. Bring a mat and towel. *Noon–1 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $10. 998–9540.*

★**Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Monday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Table Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to play games like bridge, chess, tile rummy, and Skip-Bo. *1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Avis Farms Toastmasters.** *February 4 & 18.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *5:15–7 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room C, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $20 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $27). For information, call Adrienne at 332–1200.*

★**"A Conversation with Steven Levy: The Future of Reading": U-M Hatcher Graduate Library.** *Newsweek* senior editor Levy and U-M Library dean and former provost Paul Courant discuss digital environments, gadgets, and "the perfect tool for information storage and retrieval: the book." *5:30–7:30 p.m., Hatcher Library, 920 North University. Free. 764–6338.*

★**"Be Good to Your Whole Body: Healthy Hearts": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by Whole Foods staff member Jill Brown. *6–7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Monday.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Illinois. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Nathan Englander: U-M English Department/ U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Fiction reading by this short story writer and novelist, whose forthcoming novel ***The Ministry of Special Cases,*** set during Argentina's "dirty war," concerns a shady character who with his wife turns desperate when his son becomes a *desaparecido. 7 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. 615–3710.*

★**"Pressed Flower and Herb Bookmarks": Evening Herb Study Group.** All invited to join club members to make bookmarks with pressed flowers, herbs, and leaves. Some plant material, card stock, scissors, and contact paper provided; if you have any of these items at home, please bring them. *7–9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 459–8454.*

★**"Emotional Wellness": Nutritional Healing Center.** Talk by local chiropractor Darren Schmidt. *7 p.m., Nutritional Healing Centers of Ann Arbor, 3610 W. Liberty. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★**Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday.* Members give speeches, receive helpful feedback from more experienced members, and learn through observing and practicing. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts Bldg., room 159, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors. 972–4619.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** *Every Monday.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

Dream Group. *Every Monday.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662–5925.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corinne Hillebrandt. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 213–3172.*

★**"The Hiddenness of God": U-M Campus Chapel.** Talk by Duke Divinity School Christian spirituality professor Lauren Winner, author of *Girl Meets God: A Memoir* and *Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity. 8 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Free. 668–7421.*

★**Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Monday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). 474–1155.*

Joe Henry: The Ark. *See review, above.* Country-rooted folk-rock by this critically acclaimed singer-songwriter. Henry, who grew up in Michigan, is often compared to Van Morrison for his passionate emotional directness and to Dylan for his restless musical inventiveness and poetic lyrical touch, and even 2 decades into his career his music continues to evolve in unexpected and revelatory ways. "He has moved

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4 MONDAY *continued*

into a space that only he and Tom Waits inhabit in that they are songwriters who have created deep archetypal characters [and] new sonic universes to explore and express themselves in," says *All Music Guide* writer Thom Jurek. Henry has a widely acclaimed new CD, *Civilians*. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Oscars Series. "Wings" (William Wellman, 1927). Two WW I flyboys fall in love with "the boring girl down the street and have somehow failed to notice that Clara Bow is the girl next door," says one exasperated reviewer. The only silent film to win an Oscar for Best Picture. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"** (Julian Schnabel, 2007). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

5 TUESDAY

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. *9:45–11:15 a.m. & 1:15–2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. $15 onetime materials fee. 665–0105.*

"Spiritual Inquiry": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Tuesday and Thursday.* All invited to join a group discussion. The program begins with a short presentation. The Thursday program concludes with a video lecture by the pioneering consciousness and spirituality researcher **David R. Dawkins,** followed by discussion. *10 a.m.–noon (Tues.) & 6:45–9:30 p.m. (Thurs.), Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tuesday through February 19.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered through the week of February 18 at the Malletts Creek (Wednesdays, 10–10:30 a.m.), Northeast (Thursdays, 10–10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thursdays, 7–7:30 p.m., & Fridays, 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday & Wednesday (different locations).* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *10:30 a.m. (Tues.), Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower), & 12:45 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 11 a.m. by **"Conversations on the Current State of World Jewry."** At 1 p.m., participants can play **mah-jongg** or **poker,** or join **quilting** or other art projects. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** *Every Tuesday except February 26.* Talks TBA by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Today: University of Notre Dame East Asian languages and cultures professor Lionel Jensen discusses **"China's Capitalism, Confucianism, and the New Nationalism."** Also this month: *pipa* virtuoso Wu Man, who performs with the Bay Area Shawm Band on February 10 (see listing), discusses **"Chinese Music"** (February 12), and University of California-Santa Barbara East Asian languages and cultural studies professor Ronald Egan discusses **"Why Didn't Zhao Mingcheng Send Letters to His Wife, Li Qingzhao, When He Was Away?"** (February 19). *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities.** *February 5, 7, 12, & 19.* Today: **Derek Bermel,** a New York City composer whose new string quartet is featured in the Guarneri String Quartet concert on February 9 (see listing), discusses **"Making Strings Talk: Writing for the Guarneri Quartet."** Also this month: Pulitzer Prize–winning composer and U-M music professor **William Bolcom** discusses his Double Quartet that will receive its premiere in the same Guarneri concert (February 7), UCLA performance studies and critical studies professor Haiping Yan discusses **"Tropes of Home: The Gender of Globalizing Markets in Chinese Urban Culture"** (February 12), and painter Alison Byrnes, a recent U-M art school grad who specializes in what she calls "funny paintings about history," discusses **"Telic or Cyclic: Visualizing Patterns in History"** (February 19). *Noon–1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 1022. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor.** Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum on Main Street director Alice Cerniglia discusses **"The Flapper Era and Sewing Arts."** All women who have recently moved or returned to the Ann Arbor–Ypsilanti area invited. Coffee, tea, & dessert served. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by lunch (preregistration required). *12:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Free. Low-cost child care arrangements available in advance only. 358–3575.*

★**"Climate Change": 21st Annual U-M Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talk by National Center for Atmospheric Research senior scientist Warren Washington. *4 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin. Free. 936–1055.*

★**"'Quo Vadis': Five Filmings of a Historical Novel": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts.** Lecture by U-M classics professor Ruth Scodel. Reception follows. *4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 998–6251.*

★**"TweenSpace: Masters of Disguise": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 4 & 5 invited to make a costume to wear in a silly skit, or just to fool your friends. *4:30–6 p.m., AADL Northeast branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Speaker Series: U-M Erb Institute.** *February 5 & 13.* Talks by visiting speakers. Today: Alcoa representative Jim Nixon discusses **"Challenges for an Energy-Intensive Business in a Carbon-Constrained World."** Also this month: TechnoServe president Bruce McNamer discusses **"Sustainable Business Solutions to Rural Poverty"** (February 13). *5–6:30 p.m., 0750 Wyly Hall, 724 East University at Hill. Free. 647–9799.*

★**Ann Arbor Front Runners.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday.* Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with Front Runners members. *6:30 p.m., meet at Fuller Park pool parking lot. Free. 741–1763.*

"Carnevale": Paesano's Restaurant. A gala 5-course dinner, each course paired with a different Italian wine presented by Luca Papini, a representative of the San Giustina and Casa Setaro wineries. Dancing to live music by the Detroit jazz band **Hot Club of Brazil.** Also, magicians, palm readers, and other entertainment between courses. All encouraged to come in Mardi Gras costume. *6:30–11 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reservations recommended. $85. 971–0484.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tuesday.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★**Common Thread.** *February 5 & 19.* All invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7–9 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group: Arborland Borders.** *Every Tuesday.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**"Raising a Child Naturally in a Synthetic World": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local naturopath Audrey Blagsvedt. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

"Tea Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *February 5 & 19.* Zingerman's tea expert Jess Piskor shows how to brew and offers taste samples of several fine teas. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door Kids Room (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $10 in advance, $15 (if available) at the door. 663–3354.*

★**Mothers and More.** *February 5 & 21.* Discussion group for moms who have adjusted their careers to spend more time with their children. Today: A chance to sample **chocolate fondue** at the Chocolate Cafe. Also this month: a group discussion on **starting one's own business** (February 21). *7–9 p.m., Chocolate Cafe (Feb. 5), 330 S. Main, & Gladwin Meeting Place (Feb. 21), 4105 W. Liberty. Free. 327–4901.*

"Odyssey to Freedom": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *February 5 & 26.* Talks by **Gehlek Rim-**

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The fast-rising young Johannes String Quartet performs with the veteran Guarneri Quartet at Rackham Feb. 9.

poche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Tonight: Colleen Retherford discusses **"Creating a Relationship to Divine Inspiration."** Also this month: Jenna Wunder discusses **"Relieving the Burden of Guilt: The Method of Letting Go"** (February 26). *7–8:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 119 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Free, but donations accepted. $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tuesday.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: callers Shirley Harden and Arlene Kindel with music by David West, Donna Baird, and Susie Lorand. Also this month: callers Ray Bantle and Marty Wilson with music by David West, Donna Baird, and Betsy Foote (February 12), callers Arlene Kindel and Bronwen Gates with music by Dr. Grangelove (February 19), and callers Shirley Harden and Greg Meisner with music by Childgrove (February 26). All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $7 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7:30–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *February 5 & 19.* Tonight: nationally recognized local photographer Howard Bond discusses **"Photography as a Fine Art: Developing a Style,"** and club members show their slides on various topics, including **"Self-Portraits."** Also this month: club members show their prints on various topics (February 19). *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free ($15 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***El Susurro de la Mujer Ballena,*** Peruvian novelist Alfonso Cueto's tale of 2 women, secret friends in high school, who meet again 25 years later. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. This month's slam competition is open to women only. The winner qualifies for the Women of the World Poetry Slam National Championship, held in Detroit next month. Also, open-mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse. *8 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $5 (students with ID, $3). For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this music-student orchestra in Mahler's Symphony no. 5. "Nobody understood it," Mahler himself commented. "I wish I could conduct the first performance 50 years after my death." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Anita Johnson: U-M School of Music.** Vocal recital by this U-M grad who spent 2 years as the resident lyric coloratura soprano with National Theater Mannheim (Germany). Program TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665–9090.*

Tuesday Night Swing: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Tuesday.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by free intermediate (7 p.m.), and beginner (8 p.m.) lessons. *9–11 p.m., Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. $5 (includes lessons; students with ID, $4). 945–8428.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" (Julian Schnabel, 2007). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

6 WEDNESDAY

★**"The Middle East as Arms Bazaar: Trade, Trafficking, Transiting Small Arms": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by U-M Ford School of Public Policy professor Susan Waltz. *10–11 a.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0350.*

★**Wednesday Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *11 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–5908.*

★**"The Taste of Ann Arbor No-Mile Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *February 6 & 20.* Riders meet for lunch at different restaurants the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through the winter. *11 a.m., location TBA. Free. 662–5052.*

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Wednesday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: P. D. Eastman's ***The Best Nest*** and Randy Cecil's ***Duck.*** Also this month: Christine Tagg's ***The Very Special Valentine*** and Corinne Demas's ***Valentine Surprise*** (February 13), Michelle Knudsen's ***The Library Lion*** and Daniel Kirk's ***Library Mouse*** (February 20), and Lauren Child's ***My Wobbly Tooth Must Not Ever Never Fall Out*** and Marc Brown's ***Arthur's Tooth*** (February 27). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *Every Wednesday.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11:30 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Toastmasters General.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *Noon–1 p.m., F206 Veterans Hospital, 2215 Fuller Rd. Free to visitors. 769–7100, ext. 55678.*

Cooking Sessions: Kitchen Port. *Every Wednesday & Sunday except February 3.* Cooking demos by local chefs. Today: TBA. Also this month: Rachel Sak prepares **"Biscotti"** (February 10), La Dolce Vita chef Cheryl Hanewich prepares **"Romantic Desserts"** (February 13), Ovations Catering owner (and former U-M chef) Pat Wright on **"A Catered Affair"** (February 17), *Ann Arbor News* food writer Marge Biancke on **"Tomato Gratin, Szechuan Green Beans, and Butternut Squash Salad"** (February 20), Christine Nguyen on **"Pad Thai"** (February 24), and TBA (February 27). *Noon–1 p.m. (Wed.) & 1–2 p.m. (Sun.), Kitchen Port, 283 Zeeb Rd. $8. Preregistration recommended. 665–9188.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Wednesday.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Darfur Skeleton": U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies.** Screening of Hishham Haj Omar's 2007 documentary about the Darfur crisis in terms of life in a refugee camp, the perspectives of tribal leaders, and the destruction of the Kondowa Forest by refugees. Followed by Q&A with the director. *2:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764–5513.*

★**"The Missing Class: Portraits of the New Poor in America": U-M School of Public Policy.** Princeton University sociology and public affairs professor Katherine Newman discusses this new book she cowrote with Victor Tan Chen. Followed by a reception and book signing. *4–5:30 p.m., 1120 Weill Hall, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to join local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *Note new location. 5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

★**Meditation.** *Every Wednesday.* All meditators invited to join a 45-minute session. *6 & 7 p.m., 4125 Jackson. Free; donations accepted. 994–1026, 663–1675.*

★**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–8 p.m., 101 Science Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes. Free to visitors. Dues: $30 semiannually. 439–4457.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★**Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. *7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine (off Bunton south of Textile Rd.), Ypsilanti Twp. Free. 481–1044.*

★**Lecture Series: U-M Center for the Child and the Family.** *February 6, 13, & 27.* Talks by U-M and local speakers. Today and February 13: Hebrew Day School language teacher Kristen Chapman and psychologist Michelle Stern-Samberg present a 2-part talk on **"Mastering the Challenges of Learning and Attention Difficulties."** Also this month: local psychologist Peggy Buttenheim discusses **"Escapes from Marital Intimacy and the Long Way Back: Affairs, Overwork, and Cyberspace"** (February 27). *7–8:30 p.m., UCCF, 530 Church St. Free. Registration required. 764–9466.*

★**"When Asia Was the World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors, and Monks Who Created the 'Riches of the East' ": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** U-M Center for South Asian Studies research scholar **Stewart Gordon** reads from his study of the transcontinental Asian culture that flourished from China to Arabia between 700 and 1500 A.D. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *February 6 & 20.* Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: poetry readings by U-M creative writing grad students **Jere-**

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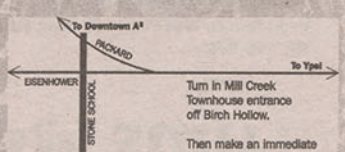

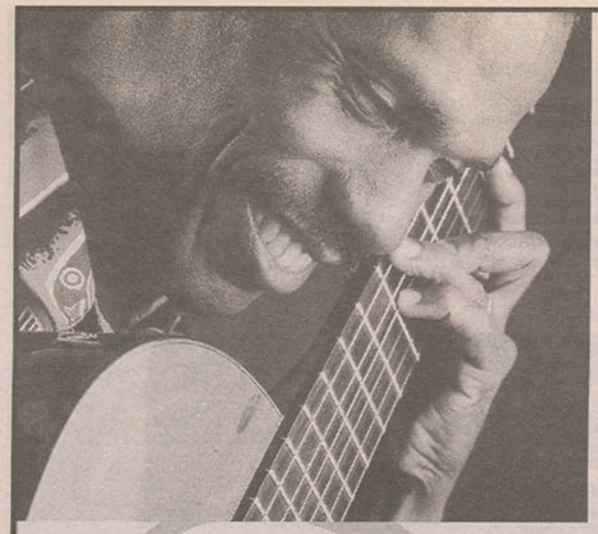

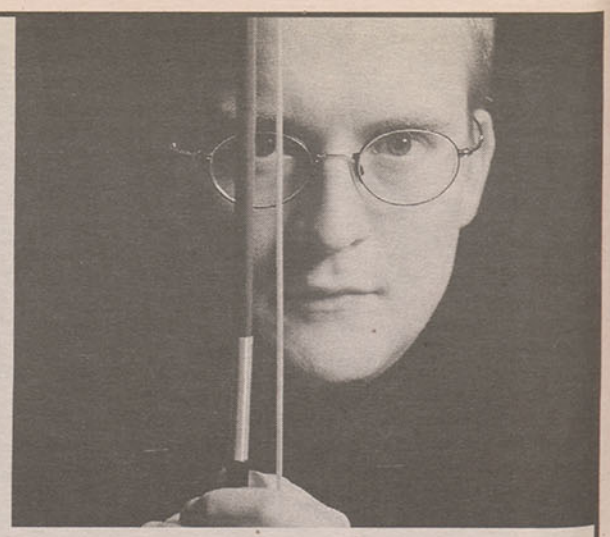

February

129th UMS Season 2007|2008

Assad Brothers' Brazilian Guitar Summit

SÉRGIO AND ODAIR ASSAD | BADI ASSAD ROMERO LUBAMBO | CELSO MACHADO
FRI, FEB 1 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

Brazilian-born brothers Sérgio and Odair Assad have set the benchmark for all other guitarists with their uncanny ensemble playing. This concert is a nod to the famous Bossa Nova celebration at Carnegie Hall in 1962, which touched off an explosion of Bossa Nova on American radio and recordings. The concert will feature Brazilian classical composers, including Heitor Villa-Lobos, Egberto Gismonti, and the Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla.

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM and WDET 101.9 FM.**

A Celebration of the Keyboard: Music for Piano, Four Hands

A Project of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
WU HAN | INON BARNATAN GILBERT KALISH | ANNE-MARIE MCDERMOTT ANDRÉ-MICHEL SCHUB | GILLES VONSATTEL
SAT, FEB 2 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Six pianists from dynamic virtuosos in their 20s to established masters of the keyboard, perform music written for two pianos

PROGRAM

Mozart	Andante and Five Variations in G Major for Piano, Four Hands, K. 501 (1786)
Mendelssohn	Andante and Variations in B-flat Major for Two Pianos, Op. 83a (1844)
Fauré	Dolly Suite for Piano, Four Hands, Op. 56 (1893-96)
Lutoslawski	Variations on a Theme of Paganini for Two Pianos (1941)
Stravinsky	The Rite of Spring for Two Pianos (1911-13)

Sponsored by **DTE Energy Foundation**

Hosted by **Dennis and Ellie Serras.**
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble

Al-fursan at-talatha (The Three Musketeers)
The Music of Umm Kalthum
FRI, FEB 8 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

The Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble consists of seven professional musicians from the US, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel performing traditional instrumental and vocal music from the North African, Egyptian, Levantine, Turkish, and Armenian repertoire. The Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble's program features music by Zakaria Ahmed, Muhammad al-Qasabji, and Riyad al-Sunbati, three Egyptian composers who wrote music for the legendary vocalist Umm Kalthum.

Media Partner **The Arab American News.**

Guarneri String Quartet Johannes String Quartet

SAT, FEB 9 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

The Guarneri and Johannes String Quartets collaborate for the first time, performing a UMS co-commission by U-M composer William Bolcom and Mendelssohn's magnificent Octet. Also on the program are short new works by Esa-Pekka Salonen (Los Angeles Philharmonic) and U-M alumnus Derek Bermel.

PROGRAM

Bolcom	Octet: Double Quartet (2007)
Esa-Pekka Salonen	String Quartet (2007)
Derek Bermel	String Quartet (2007)
Mendelssohn	Octet in E-flat Major for Strings, Op. 20 (1825)

Sponsored by **University of Michigan Health System**

Supported by **Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Fund.**

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Wu Man pipa and the Bay Area Shawm Band

SUN, FEB 10 | 4 PM
Rackham Auditorium

Wu Man is an internationally renowned virtuoso of the pipa, a lute-like Chinese instrument whose history dates back more than 2,000 years. Making her UMS debut she is joined by the Chinese Shawm Band, comprised of conservatory-trained masters of traditional Chinese instruments.

The 07/08 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**
Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

Christian Tetzlaff violin

THU, FEB 14 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Returning to Ann Arbor for a special Valentine's Day program of solo violin masterpieces, Christian Tetzlaff reflects brilliance in musical insight and interpretation.

PROGRAM

Ysaÿe	Sonata for Solo Violin, Op. 27, No. 1
J.S. Bach	Sonata No. 3 in C, BWV 1005 (1720)
Bartók	Sonata for Unaccompanied Violin (1945)
Paganini	Four excerpts (Nos. 16, 6, 15, 1) from the 24 Caprices, Op. 1 (c. 1820)

Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

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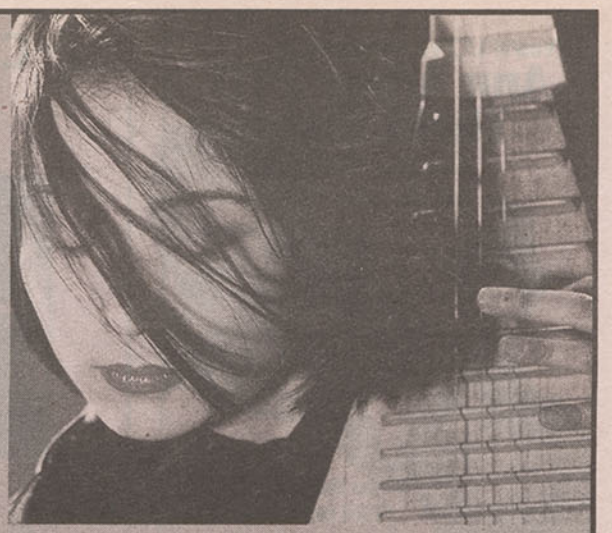

Noism08

NINA materialize sacrifice
JO KANAMORI conductor
FRI, FEB 15 | 8 PM
Power Center

At the vanguard of Japan's new generation of dancemakers, 33-year-old choreographer and dancer Jo Kanamori serves as the artistic director of Noism08, the only residential contemporary dance company in Japan. As one of the most talked-about personalities on the Japanese contemporary dance scene, his company makes its UMS debut with this single performance of *NINA materialize sacrifice*, which showcases dancers of amazing virtuosity performing outrageously difficult choreography with machine-like precision.

Media Partners **Michigan Radio, Between the Lines, and Metro Times.**

Ahmad Jamal

AHMAD JAMAL piano | **JAMES CAMMACK** bass
IDRIS MUHAMMAD drums
SAT, FEB 16 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

One of the greatest all-time jazz pianists, Ahmad Jamal is best known as a major influence on the most recognizable names in jazz history: Miles Davis. The NEA Jazz Master has spent the better part of 60 years defining and redefining his trio. Jamal's signature work, "Poinciana," remains as relevant today as when he first performed it in 1958.

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, Michigan Chronicle/Front Page, and Metro Times.**

FREE EDUCATION EVENTS

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

Celebration of the Keyboard

PRELUDE DINNER with Arthur Greene, Professor of Piano, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance
SAT, FEB 2 | 5:30 PM
Rackham Building Assembly Hall
$50 per person; call 734-764-8489 for reservation.

Guarneri & Johannes String Quartets

Events are presented in collaboration with the Institute for the Humanities, the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and the U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art program.

INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES BROWN BAG LUNCH:
Composer Derek Bermel
TUE, FEB 5 | 12 NOON
U-M Institute for the Humanities (202 S. Thayer)

INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES BROWN BAG LUNCH:
Composer William Bolcom
THU, FEB 7 | 12 NOON
U-M Institute for the Humanities (202 S. Thayer)

OPEN REHEARSAL/MASTER CLASS
FRI, FEB 8 | 7 PM
U-M School of Music Britton Recital Hall

PRELUDE DINNER with William Bolcom, Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Composition, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance
SAT, FEB 9 | 5:30 PM
Rackham Building Assembly Hall
$50 per person; call 734-764-8489 for reservations.

MEET THE ARTSTS
SAT, FEB 9 | after the performance

GIFTS OF ART PERFORMANCE: Derek Bermel
MON, FEB 11 | 12 NOON
University Hospital, Main Lobby

Wu Man

Events are presented in collaboration with the U-M Center for Chinese Studies and the U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art program.

U-M CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES BROWN BAG LUNCH
Wu Man and the World of Chinese Music
TUE, FEB 12 | 12 NOON
U-M Center for Chinese Studies, School of Social Work Building (1080 South University Ave)

GIFTS OF ART PERFORMANCE:
Wu Man and the Bay Area Shawm Band
WED, FEB 13 | 12 NOON
University Hospital, Main Lobby

Christian Tetzlaff

PRELUDE DINNER with Stephen Shipps, Professor of Violin, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance
THU, FEB 14 | 5:30 PM
Rackham Building Assembly Hall
$50 per person; call 734-764-8489 for reservations.

Noism08

Presented in collaboration with the U-M Center for Japanese Studies.

ARTIST RECEPTION: Meet Jo Kanamori and Noism08 Company Members
FRI, FEB 15 | after the performance
Michigan League (911 North University Ave)

Ahmad Jamal

JAZZ 101 SERIES: MODERN JAZZ
Speaker: Mark Clague, Assistant Professor of Musicology, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance
MON, FEB 11 | 7 PM
Ann Arbor District Library

BEETHOVEN: The Sonata Obsession Laboratory Concerts

Performed by students at the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance
SUN, FEB 3 | 4 PM
THU, FEB 7 | 8 PM
Stamps Auditorium, Walgreen Drama Center (1226 Murfin)

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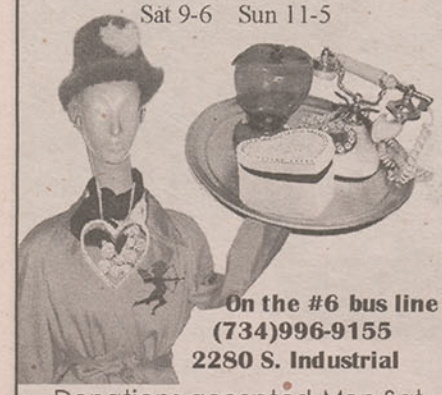

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OLIVER!

MONDAY, FEB 25 AT 7 PM
BEST PICTURE: 1988
RAIN MAN

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6 WEDNESDAY *continued*

my Heartberg and **Megan Levad.** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"Before It Hits Home": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Benefit performance of Cheryl West's AIDS awareness play, which opens February 8 (see listing). Proceeds go to local AIDS services. *7 p.m., Peace Neighborhood Center, 1111 N. Maple (between Dexter & Miller). Tickets $25 in advance, $30 at the door. 572–9355.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 214–2755.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Wednesday & Thursday.* Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. *7:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m. (Thurs.), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Theosophy. 8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764.*

★**"Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop": 21st Annual U-M Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talk by Bakari Kitwana, the author of several books that explore the social context of hip-hop. Followed by reception, 9:30–10:30 p.m. *8 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. 936–1055.*

★**Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Rodney Dorsey and Scott Boerma direct this music-student ensemble in the influential contemporary composer Joan Tower's *Fascinating Ribbons,* Pulitzer Prize–winning U-M music professor emeritus Leslie Bassett's *Lullaby for Kirsten,* Joseph Turrin's *Lullaby for Noah,* Michael Colgrass's *Raag Mala,* Peter Warlock's *Capriol Suite,* Holst's *Hammersmith,* the 1st movement of Bernard Rogers's *Three Japanese Dances,* the 3rd movement of Malcolm Arnold's *Four Scottish Dances,* and Ginastera's *Danza Final. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wednesday.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

Kate Clinton: The Ark. One of the first openly gay women to make it big on the stand-up circuit, Kate Clinton is a very popular performer who uses humor as an illuminating, liberating corrosive. Her keen-witted political humor has led to her being described as "Mark Russell on estrogen." A former English teacher, she has a delivery that's low-key but precise and consistently effective as she muses on everything from contemporary gay issues to Washington politics to life as a "recovering Catholic." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $26 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wednesday.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" (Julian Schnabel, 2007). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

7 THURSDAY

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., a **Current Events** discussion group hosted by Heather Dombey. At 1 p.m., a cultural or educational program. Today: Washtenaw Community College photography professor Beverly Chethuk discusses **"How to Take Good Photographs."** Bring in a photo you've taken, and she'll critique it. Also this month: Washtenaw County Library for the Blind librarian Margaret Wolfe discusses **"Library for the Blind"** (February 14), a screening of Gidi Dar's 2004 feature film about an ultra-Orthodox Jerusalem couple ***Ushpizin*** (February 21), and **Neighborhood Senior Services** director Dawn Vogel discusses some of the aids NSS provides (February 28). The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group,** a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

"Drum Me a Story": Wild Swan Theater. *February 7–9.* This award-winning local children's theater presents its original collection of African trickster folk tales, including "Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock" and "How the Turtle Got Its Shell." Cast: Sandy Ryder, Tiffany Jones, and Ryan Edwards, a Guinea-trained master drummer who accompanies the tales with live drumming and also leads a set of lively sing-along chants and songs. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. *Note:* At press time, today's 10:30 show was sold out. *10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children, $8; lap passes for kids 2 and younger, $3) in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, or to arrange tours or audio description, call 995–0930.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*

★**"Lunch and Learn on the Jewish Holiday of Purim": Beth Israel Congregation.** *February 7 & 14.* A series of 2 talks by rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Bring a dairy lunch; dessert and drink provided. *Noon–1:15 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 665–9897.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** *February 7, 14, & 21.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: U-M visiting sociology professor Mark McLelland on **"Kissing Is a Symbol of Democracy."** Also this month: U-M psychology professor Shinobu Kitayama on **"Voluntary Settlement and the Spirit of Independence: Some More Evidence from Japan's Northern Frontier"** (February 14) and Washington University Asian and Near Eastern Languages professor Jamie Newhard on **"Mixed Messages: Classical Literature in 17th- and 18th-Century Books for Women"** (February 21). *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6307.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *February 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, & 28.* Performances by area and guest artists. Today: the **Community High School Jazz Ensemble.** Also this month: classical and jazz clarinetist **Derek Bermel** (February 11), a performer TBA (February 12), Chinese pipa music by **Wu Man** (February 13), contemporary Japanese music by the musicians of the dance troupe **Noism08** (February 14), a classical musician TBA (February 21), and smooth jazz by **Annette Blank** (February 28). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital main lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

"Kids in the Kitchen": Katherine's Catering. Kids ages 10–15 invited to learn how to cook a tasty and nutritious meal and make a custom-designed dessert. *4–6 p.m., Katherine's Catering, 359 Metty Drive. $25. 930–4270.*

★**"Europe: The Tragic Continent": U-M Center for European Studies "Conversations on Europe."** Talk by Erasmus University (Rotterdam) philosophy of man and culture professor Jos de Mul, author of *The Tragedy of Finitude. 4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**"Struggling Toward Justice in Education": 21st Annual U-M Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** University of Illinois history and educational policy professor James Anderson discusses the history of the relationship between public education and African Americans. *4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 764–6497.*

★**"The Politics of Health Care Reform": U-M School of Public Policy.** Talk by Project HOPE senior fellow Gail Wilensky, cochair of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. *4–5:30 p.m., 1110 Weill Hall, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★**"Fueling Up on Low-Fat Foods": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Social worker Jan Kemp, a local representative of the D.C.-based nonprofit the Cancer Project, shows seniors how to prepare and offers taste samples of a variety of delicious low-fat dishes made from whole grains, legumes, vegetables, and fruit. *4:30–6 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9353.*

★**Satoru Takahashi: U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Lecture by this U-M art professor who creates airy, stately installations that explore such issues as life between cultures and the relationships between memory, history, and perception. One 2005 project involved a collaboration with seniors at the Turner Senior Resource Center to develop an art project that was also a memory aid for seniors exploring memory loss. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764–0397.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Penn State. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

ACBL Bridge: Women's City Club. *Every Thursday.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**"The Naica Crystal Cave": Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Talks by club members John Lindsay and Chris Stefano. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 434–8517.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a warm, friendly environment. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Education Bldg., room 182, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors. Dues: $35 semiannually (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $20). 678–2256.*

★**"Depression Resolution": Nutritional Healing Center.** Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Dicks. *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

"Grocer's Daughter Truffle Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Grocer's Daughter (Empire, Michigan) chocolatier Mimi Wheeler offers taste samples of her herb-infused truffles. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★**"Stem Cell Research: The Science and Ethics": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with Life Sciences Institute research scientist Jack Mosher and others TBA. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Wikipedia, Citizendium, and the Future of Online Collaboration": EMU College of Arts & Sciences Lecture Series.** Talk by **Larry Sanger,** cofounder of Wikipedia and creator of the Wikipedia offshoot Citizendium. *7 p.m., EMU Student Center Auditorium, 900 Oakwood (off Washtenaw) EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–3179.*

★**"Storm over China": U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Screening of Richard Prost & Yves Billy's documentary about the devastating effects of deforestation and the resulting sandstorms in a village northwest of Beijing, and the government's attempts to prevent the rapidly increasing desertification of northern China. *7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium A. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Romance Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***March,*** Geraldine Brooks's novel about what Mr. March of *Little Women* was doing during the Civil War. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Magna Carta Manifesto": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** University of Toledo history professor **Peter Linebaugh** reads from his study of the origins of the Great Charter and its little known companion the Charter of the Forest, which protected the subsistence rights of the poor, and the history of the abridgements of the restraints against tyranny—the rights of habeas corpus, trial by jury, due process of law, and the prohibition of torture—it established. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). $4. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★**"American Vaudeville and Popular Culture": Concordia University.** U-M theater professor Leigh Woods, author of *Transatlantic Stage Stars in Vaudeville and Variety,* discusses vaudeville's place in American popular culture from the 1890s to the 1930s. *7:30 p.m., Concordia University Riverside Conference Room, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–4612.*

★**"Educating for What? The Struggle for Democracy in Education": EMU College of Education.** Lecture by the celebrated educator **Deborah Meier,** a MacArthur Award recipient who founded, directed, and taught at a network of highly successful public schools in New York City that are considered exemplary models of urban school reform. She is currently NYU Steinhardt School of Education senior scholar, as well as director of New Ventures at Mission Hill and of the Forum for Democracy and Education. Followed by a reception and signing of 2 of Meier's recent books, *The Power of Their Ideas* and *Many Children Left Behind. 7:30 p.m., EMU Roosevelt Auditorium, W. Forest at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–7120.*

Puppetry Improv: Dreamland Theater. The Dreamland puppet troupe uses marionettes, rod puppets, and other forms of puppetry in an improv performance inspired by current events, audience suggestions, and "whatever strikes our fancy." *8–9 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti. Pay what you can. 657–2337.*

★**Luis Sanchez: EMU Music Department.** This St. Petersburg (Florida) College piano professor, a Buenos Aires native who has performed extensively in Argentina, Uruguay, and the U.S., performs music by Liszt, Mozart, Schubert, and the early-20th-century Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Beethoven: The Sonata Obsession": U-M School of Music.** See 3 Sunday. Today's program: Sonata in D Major for Piano and Violin, Sonata in A Major for Piano and Violin, and Sonata in E-flat Major for Piano and Winds. 8 p.m.

Eddie Shaw: The Ark. Chicago blues band led by Shaw, a longtime leader of Howlin' Wolf's band who is regarded as the world's premier blues saxophonist. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Les Miserables": Huron Players (Huron High School). *February 7–10.* Bj Wallingford directs Huron students in Boublil and Schoenberg's musical based on Victor Hugo's classic saga set during the French Revolution. The score is performed live by a student pit orchestra. *8 p.m., Huron High School Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Tickets $12 (students & seniors, $10; family of 4, $40) in advance and at the door. 994–2096.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Dave Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *February 7–9.* This polished Grand Rapids comic is known for his unexpected takes on everything from marriage and raising kids to current events and even ear hair. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *Every Thursday.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *9 p.m., Michigan League room D. Free. 971–1809.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" (Julian Schnabel, 2007). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

8 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

★**"Music and Motion": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Kids, local pianist Kathryn Goodson, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra principal flutist Penny Fischer lead babies through 5th-graders (accompanied by an adult) in a program that includes storytelling and dancing to live music. Participants also learn about the instruments. *9:30–10 & 10:30–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"Drum Me a Story": Wild Swan Theater. See 7 Thursday. 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★**"Clifford the Big Red Dog": Barnes & Noble.** Norman Bridwell's popular character is on hand to read some of his stories. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 763–1618.*

★**Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists.** *Every Friday through March 14.* Noontime concerts by professional and student organists TBA on the church's mighty Wilhelm organ. Today: stu-

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Charles Baxter

Identity theft

MICHAEL HOUGH

Charles Baxter's novels and short stories have often questioned the nature of their composition: Is this a story? And if so, where is the boundary between the story and the life it may or may not reflect? Where is the boundary between the author and the narrator? Sometimes his stories don't seem to believe that they are stories, even as they spin themselves out through the lives of their characters.

His new novel, *The Soul Thief,* features two memorable characters—the troubled and occasional narrator, Nathaniel Mason, and the enigmatic and ominous Jerome Coolberg, perhaps one of the most interesting and unlikable characters Baxter has ever created.

The story is told in two parts. The first takes place in Buffalo in "the early 1970s, days of ecstatic bitterness and joyfully articulated rage." Nathaniel is a graduate student, new in town, without friends or much ambition. He stumbles into love affairs and into an acquaintanceship with Jerome, who may be an evil genius or simply a poseur who has seen too many movies. As is often the case with graduate students, we can never quite be sure.

Nathaniel finds himself under a subtle assault by Jerome, who seems to be assuming his identity, commandeering the facts of his life, stealing his soul. One of Nathaniel's lovers is assaulted, and he is not sure whether or not Jerome is at fault. And the reader is never quite certain whether the assault is real or a reflection of Nathaniel's growing psychic instability.

The second part of *The Soul Thief* takes place decades later. Nathaniel never finished his degree, but he recovered his stability. And then Jerome reappears, carrying a series of stories and an oddly familiar book. He continues to be cryptic and unlikable, and he has retained his weird obsession with Nathaniel's life. He tells Nathaniel he is simply the reflection of a national trait—"No one knows who we are here, in this country, because we're all actors, we've got the most fluid cards of identity in the world, we've got disguises on top of disguises, we're the best on earth at what we do, which is illusion. We're all pretenders." Baxter keeps us uncertain about where the pretense ends, where the identity stops, and whether or not it could ever be stolen. It is a troubling effective novel, unforgettable in its uncertainties.

Charles Baxter returns to Ann Arbor to read from his new book at the Ann Arbor Book Festival "Authors at Lunch" on Wednesday, February 13. He also reads from the book at Shaman Drum later that day.

—Keith Taylor

8 FRIDAY *continued*

dents of James Kibbie. *Noon, First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662–4466.*

★Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *February 8 & 22.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Trenton Merricks: U-M Philosophy Department. Talk by this University of Virginia philosophy professor, the author of *Objects and Persons* and an influential proponent of mereological nihilism, which takes the position that objects with parts—everything but elementary particles—don't really exist. *3–5 p.m., 2306 Mason Hall. Free. 764–6285.*

29th Annual Lenten Fish Fry: Old St. Patrick's Church. *Every Friday, February 8–March 14.* Fried Alaskan pollack, choice of potato, salad bar, and beverage. Desserts available for a nominal additional charge. Beer & wine available for donation. Be prepared to stand in line, but the food is worth the wait. *4:30–8 p.m., Old St. Pat's parish hall, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. at Northfield Church (3 miles north of Ann Arbor). $7 (seniors, $6.50; children 5–11, $5.50; children 4 & under, free). 662–8141.*

★Winter Carnival: Chelsea American Legion Post 31. *February 8–10.* Three days of competitive ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other winter fun at Cavanaugh Lake. Daily special events: a euchre tournament ($5 entry fee; prizes) on February 8, Monte Carlo casino games on February 9, and dancing to live music on February 10. Refreshments, breakfasts, and light lunches available. *5 p.m.–1 a.m. (Feb. 8), 7 a.m.–1 a.m. (Feb. 9), & 7 a.m.–6 p.m. (Feb. 10), American Legion Hall, 1700 Ridge Rd. (off Cavanaugh Lake Rd. from Kalmbach Rd. north from I-94 exit 156), Chelsea. Free admission. 475–7212.*

★"Ice Carving Extravaganza": Main Street Area Association. *February 8–10.* Members of the U-M ice carving team chip huge blocks of ice on the sidewalks into elaborate twinkling sculptures, which remain on display as long as the weather holds. *6–10 p.m. (Feb. 8) & 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Feb. 9 & 10), Main Street area. Free. 668–7112.*

"I'm Sorry to Tell You This: The Ethics of Giving and Receiving Bad News": Blackbird Theater. Performance of a scene from *Angels in America*, followed by a panel discussion by local people TBA from different backgrounds, including a journalist, a physician, a business manager, a coach, and a military officer. In conjunction with Blackbird's staged reading of *Angels in America* (see 9 Saturday listing). *7–8:30 p.m., Blackbird Theater, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). $10. 332–3848.*

★Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to discuss fiction writer and essayist Barbara Kingsolver's ***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life,*** her best-selling account of a year she spent eating only homegrown and locally produced food. *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department. *February 8 & 15.* Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: poetry by **Alana DeRiggi** and prose by **Delia DeCourcy.** *7 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Free. 615–3710.*

★Paula Nangle: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This WMU creative writing grad, a practicing psychiatric nurse who was raised by missionaries in the U.S. and southern Africa, reads from her debut novel ***The Leper Compound,*** a coming-of-age story, set in Rhodesia on the verge of its transition to Zimbabwe, about a young woman, motherless at age 7 and isolated from her schizophrenic younger sister, who transgresses social, racial, and political boundaries in her search for connection. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

Winter Concert: Dance Body. *February 8 & 9.* A showcase of choreography in a variety of dance idioms by members of this all-city company, directed by Deborah Sipos-Roe, of students from Community, Pioneer, and Huron high schools and the Rudolf Steiner School. Also, performances by the Community High School Jazz Band. *7 p.m., Forsythe Middle School auditorium, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. $8 (students, $5) at the door only. 994–2021.*

"All Night Strut": EMU Theater Department. *February 8–10 & 14–16.* EMU drama professor Wallace Bridges directs EMU drama students in Fran Charnas's sassy, sophisticated 1979 Off-Broadway revue, a celebration of the melting pot of blues, swing, jazz, gospel and pop that flourished in the 30s and 40s, including songs like "In the Mood," "As Time Goes By," "Tuxedo Junction," "Fascinatin' Rhythm," and more. *7 p.m., Sponberg Theatre, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids age 12 & under, $6) in advance and at the door. Group discounts available. 487–1221.*

★"Earth Charter": Older Lesbians Organizing. All lesbians invited to join a group discussion about this UN environmental sustainability initiative. *7:30 p.m., WRAP office (upstairs), 325 Braun. Free. 995–9867.*

"Disney's Beauty and the Beast": Burns Park Players 25th Annual Production. *February 8, 9, 15, & 16.* Alex Puette directs 260 Burns Park Elementary School students, parents, and friends ranging in age from 6 to 88—a group cited by former *Ann Arbor News* drama critic Chris Potter in his 2002 theater roundup as one of the best theater groups in town—in Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Tim Rice, and Linda Woolverton's musical version of the classic love story between a lovely maiden and a loathsome beast cursed to remain a beast forever unless he can earn a maiden's love before the last petal falls from an enchanted rose. This production includes all of the songs from the popular film, plus the new songs written for the Broadway version. The cast includes Karen Ostafinski, Jon Wardner, Jeffrey Post, Clinch Steward, Jay Pekala, Lisa Mann, Bob Galardi, Dawn Korman, and Zack Pearlman. Proceeds benefit children's cultural arts programs—the Players have donated more than $200,000 since 1984. These shows almost always sell out, so get tickets early. *7:30 p.m., Tappan Middle School auditorium, 2251 E. Stadium Blvd. at Packard. Tickets $15 & $30 in advance only at Morgan & York and by phone. 478–0449.*

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. *February 1 & 15.* All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *8–10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 764–3440.*

2nd Friday Advanced English Dance. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Caller Tom Siess, with music by Dr. Grangelove. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

★EMU Symphony Orchestra: EMU Music Department. Kevin Miller conducts this music-student orchestra in Beethoven's groundbreaking *Pastoral Symphony.* Also, **John Bogden,** one of the 2 winners of the annual EMU concerto and aria competition, is featured in a performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto no. 3. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★Chamber Choir: U-M School of Music. Jerry Blackstone conducts this music-student ensemble in Herbert Howells's sensuous Magnificat, Elgar's "Lux aeterna," and Durufle's finest work, his Requiem Mass based on Gregorian themes. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

"B-School Follies": U-M Business School. Musical comedy revue by U-M business school students. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $25 in advance at the Business School Executive Residence Lounge and at the door. 668–8397.*

"Before It Hits Home": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *February 8–10, 15, & 16.* Charlotte Bowens directs local actors in Cheryl West's drama about a closeted jazz musician who discovers he has AIDS and is forced to confess to both of his lovers, one of whom hopes to marry him, and to his estranged family. The cast includes Sean Rodriguez, Jasmine McCord, Renell White, LeCount Holmes Jr., and Patti St. John. *Note:* There is also a benefit performance of the play on February 6 (see listing). *8 p.m., AACT Studio, 322 W. Ann. Tickets $10 & $15 in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble: University Musical Society. Morocco-born *quanun* (plucked zither) player Hicham Chami leads this acclaimed ensemble of musicians from the U.S., Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Israel, and France in traditional instrumental and vocal music from the Arab repertoire. The group's 2006 CD release *The Songs of Sheikh Sayyed Darweesh: Soul of a People* was named one of the top 10 world music recordings by

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the *Boston Globe*. A *Chicago Reader* critic said that the group "brings a historical authenticity to the material and plays it with crackling precision." Tonight's program features works by 3 Egyptian composers who wrote music for the legendary Egyptian singer Umm Kalthum: Zakaria Ahmed, Muhammed al-Qasabji, and Riyad al-Sunbati. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $20–$40 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Mustard's Retreat: The Ark. Longtime local favorites Michael Hough and David Tamulevich perform a wide variety of original and traditional songs and ballads about everyday life. According to songwriter Garnet Rogers, Mustard's Retreat "represents everything that is best about folk music. Their songs have entered the lexicon of anonymous folk songs." Both Hough and Tamulevich are accomplished guitarists, and they also play banjo, mandolin, flute, autoharp, harmonica, and tin whistle. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Dance Jam": U-M Dance Department.** U-M dance and music students join forces to improvise spontaneous performances. *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Dance Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

"Les Miserables": Huron Players (Huron High School). See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Dave Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

M-Flicks. "Stardust" (Matthew Vaughn, 2007). Lush, imaginative fantasy about a would-be suitor sent to fetch a fallen star as a present for his beloved. Based on the acclaimed Neil Gaiman novel. FREE. 763–1107. Nat. Sci. Auditorium (839 North University), 8 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

9 SATURDAY

4th Annual Independence Lake Ice Fishing Derby: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Kids and adults can compete in 2 divisions for prizes. Raffle. Bring your own bait. Call first to see if the ice is thick enough. *7 a.m.–4 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. $8 (kids 12 & under, $5), includes vehicle entrance fee. 449–4437.*

8th Annual U-M Dancesport Competition: U-M Ballroom Dance Team. The U-M team, the current national collegiate champions, hosts a ballroom dance competition featuring teams from Purdue, Indiana, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Illinois, Northwestern, and other universities TBA. Also, at approximately 7 p.m., an exhibition by one of the world's top professional ballroom couples, **Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova.** *8 a.m.–10 p.m., Intramural Sports, 600 E. Hoover. $12 (students with ID, $8; kids under age 5, free) in advance at UofMballroom.com, and at the door. 763–6984.*

★**Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at an Arb location TBA. Free. 998–9540.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *February 9 & 10.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Feb. 9) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Feb. 10), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (810) 227–1637.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a display on **vermicomposting** (indoor composting with worms). Also, Growing Hope executive director Amanda Edmonds presents vermicomposting workshops ($25; preregistration required). *10 a.m.–noon. Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 997–1533.*

★**"Heirloom Garden Series": Project Grow.** *February 9 & 23.* First 2 in a series of 5 biweekly programs presented by Project Grow instructors. Today: Royer Held discusses **"Organic Gardening."** Also this month: Royer Held discusses **"Enjoying and Preserving Heirloom Vegetables in Your Garden"** (February 23). *10 a.m.–noon, Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free; donation appreciated. 996–3169.*

★**"Valentine's Day Cards": Ann Arbor District Library.** *February 9 & 10 (different locations).* All preschoolers through 3rd-graders invited to make a Valentine for a special friend. *10 a.m.–noon (Feb. 9), AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., & 2–4 p.m. (Feb. 10), AADL Northeast Branch. Free. 327–4200.*

"Storytelling by the Fireplace": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Park naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck shows a variety of skulls and furs and tells stories for kids about the animals that live in the park. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

"Drum Me a Story": Wild Swan Theater. See 7 Thursday. 11 a.m.

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Saturday & Sunday beginning February 9.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★**"Newfoundland Plants Suitable for Rock Gardens": North American Rock Garden Society.** Talk by Alpines Mont Echo nursery owner Maria Galletti. *1 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–7600.*

★**"Healthy Heart": Whole Foods Market.** A chance to sample tidbits that promote both heart health and romance. *1–5 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. *February 9 & 17.* Docent-guided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–2230.*

★**"History of the Photographic Book": U-M Clements Library.** Talk by local vintage photo dealer Doug Price. *1:30 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764–2347.*

Victorian Valentine Tea: Kempf House Museum. *February 9 & 10.* An elegant, traditional tea served on the Kempf House's antique silver service. The menu also includes a selection of sweets and savories. Period attire welcome. This popular annual event usually sells out well in advance. *1:30 & 3:30 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. $20. Reservations required. 994–4898.*

★**"Imbolc Ritual": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate this ancient Celtic late winter festival of light and the earth's hidden fertility that honors the hearth goddess Brid. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. Preceded by a hearth-fire kindling rite at 7 p.m. on February 5 at 263 Larkspur (take Pontiac Trail north and turn left onto Skydale, left onto Cloverdale, and right onto Larkspur). *2–5 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free. 262–1052.*

"Chocolate Tasting": Tammy's Tastings. Local chocolatier Tammy Coxen hosts a tasting of Amedei, Domori, Steve De Vries, Cluizel, Valrhona, and other fine chocolates. *2–3:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). $20 in advance, $25 at the door. 276–3215.*

"Primitive Fire Making": Waterloo Natural History Association. WNHA naturalist Shawn Grose discusses the history of fire making and demonstrates the bow drill method. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5). Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**"Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to join members of the local Chinese American community to celebrate the Year of the Mouse. The program includes dance, music, and martial arts performances by local young Chinese Americans, traditional stories told by Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, a craft activity, and yo-yos. In conjunction with 2008 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads (see 10 Sunday listing). *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Penn State. *4 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**"Swordbird": Barnes & Noble.** Chinese American writer **Nancy Yi Fan,** a 13-year-old who lives in Florida with her parents, is on hand to sign copies of her fantasy novel about warring bird factions. *4–6 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 763–1618.*

"Disney's Beauty and the Beast": Burns Park Players 25th Annual Production. See 8 Friday. 4 p.m.

"12th Annual Hearts for the Arts": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Champagne reception, formal dinner, and live and silent auctions of donated goods and services that include an autographed copy of James Earl Jones's autobiography, a catered dinner for 8, trips, and a chance to conduct the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Proceeds benefit the AASO. *6 p.m., Travis Pointe Country Club, 2829 Travis Pointe Rd. $160. 994–4801.*

★**"Where to Skinny-Dip": Michigan Nude Beach Advocates.** Club member Matthew Kerwin discusses places in and near Michigan that allow nude bathing, along with other places where nudity is allowed. *6:30 p.m., Intercooperative Council Education Center, 1512 Hill. Free. 475–3314.*

"Chinese Contemporary Art": U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Screening of Lana Jokel's 2 documentaries, *Chinese Contemporary Art: Artists Working in China* and *Chinese Contemporary Art Comes to America. 7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium A. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Ira Glass: Liberty Borders.** Award-winning NPR reporter Ira Glass from Chicago discusses and answers questions about *This American Life,* the popular offbeat syndicated weekly program he has hosted since 1996. Each week, the show takes a theme—immigrant parents, people who lead double lives, "fiascoes"—as the basis for an hour of stories, monologues, minidocumentaries, and other sometimes indescribable pieces for radio. The result is always intriguing, usually funny, and sometimes poignant or appalling. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Winter Concert: Dance Body. See 8 Friday. 7 p.m.

"All Night Strut": EMU Theater Department. See 8 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Chocolate Crush": Wild Swan Theater. Fancy chocolate treats from local chocolate makers, paired with a variety of wines. Also, silent auction. Proceeds benefit Wild Swan, an acclaimed local children's theater troupe. *7:30 p.m., Vintage to Vogue, Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Tickets $50–$125 in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

"50s Sock Hop": Bethlehem United Church of Christ. A lively evening of dancing to 50s music by live band made up of congregants and friends. Also, a pizza dinner, a contest for the best 50s costume, a dance contest, a hula hoop contest, and a bubble gum blowing contest. Proceeds benefit the church's newly renovated Casavant organ. *7:30–10:30 p.m., BUCC, 423 S. Fourth Ave. $20 (family $50) at the door. 665–6149.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $4. 822–2120.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

"Valentine's Ragtime Trot": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. The dreamiest dance event of the season. Come with a valentine or find a new one, and dance to lively ragtime music by the Huron Valley Serenaders. Vintage attire (see vintagedance.com/wear.htm) encouraged but not required. Dancers of all abilities welcome. Refreshments. Also, $5 preball workshops (free for those attending the ball) in ragtime basics (noon–1:30 p.m.) and the "Dream Waltz" (1:45–3:15 p.m.). *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange Hall, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $25. Preregistration required. 769–0014.*

Clayton Brothers Quintet: U-M School of Music Jazz Festival. Performance by this veteran contemporary bop ensemble whose repertoire ranges from jazz standards to original compositions featuring haunting melodies and tight harmonies. Members are bassist John Clayton, saxophonist Jeff Clayton, drummer Jeff Hamilton, trumpeter Terrell Stafford, and pianist Bill Cunliffe. Also, a performance by the **U-M Jazz Lab Ensemble** directed by pianist Ellen Rowe. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 & $25 (students with ID, $10) in advance and at the door. 764–2538.*

Peter Soave & the Carpe Diem String Quartet: Great Lakes Performing Artists Associates. World renowned accordion and bandoneon virtuoso Soave, a longtime favorite with KCH audiences, joins forces tonight with the Capital University (Bexley, Ohio) quartet-in-residence for a program highlighted by Piazzolla's *5 Tango Sensations. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Guarneri Quartet and Johannes String Quartet: University Musical Society. One renowned veteran and one young string quartet share the stage tonight. The superb Guarneri Quartet, renowned worldwide for its seamless, graceful ensemble playing, is the longest surviving string quartet in the United States—it still has 3 of the 4 members who founded it in 1964. A perennial favorite with local audiences, the Guarneri plans to retire after the 2008–2009 concert season—this is one of its final concerts. The Johannes, which includes performers from the Chicago Symphony and the Philadelphia Orchestra, has been praised by the *Los Angeles Times* for its "marvelous tonal palettes, resourceful dynamics, imperturbable balances, and musical single-mindedness." The 2 quartets join forces for performances of Bolcom's Octet: Double Quartet and Mendelssohn's Octet in E-Flat Major, and each quartet performs a short new quartet, Esa-Pekka Salonen's String Quartet and U-M grad Derek Bermel's String Quartet. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $22–$46 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Peter Mulvey: The Ark. Highly regarded young folkie singer-songwriter from Milwaukee who is known for his complex guitar work, expressively playful vocals, and dark, vividly rendered lyrics. *Acoustic Guitar* called his latest CD *Kitchen Radio* a "moody, jazz-inflected" collection that is "engaging, down to earth, and utterly original." Opening act is local singer-songwriter **Chris Bathgate,** who returns to the Ark for a free show on February 26 (see listing). *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Celtic Remix": U-M Leim Irish Dance. Irish dancing by this U-M student ensemble. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $8 (students & kids 12 & under, $5). 668–8397.*

"Angels in America": Blackbird Theater. *February 9 & 16 (different programs).* Callie McKee directs staged readings of *Millennium Approaches* (February 9) and *Perestroika* (February 16), Tony Kushner's popular expansive 2–play opus that touches on various religious, moral, political, and racial themes in the course of exploring the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture. The action concerns 2 couples, one Mormon and the other gay, who are faced with challenging revelations: the Mormon husband discovers his homosexuality, and one of the gay partners is diagnosed with AIDS. *Related events:* February 8 & 15 panel discussions (see listings). *8 p.m., Blackbird Theater, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets $10 ($20 for all 4 events) in advance and at the door. 332–3848.*

"Before It Hits Home": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 8 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Les Miserables": Huron Players (Huron High School). See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Dave Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Swing Dance: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to recorded hard-swinging R&B, jump-blues, and big-band music, spun by DJ-instructor Louise Tamres. All welcome; no partner necessary. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by lessons ($5). *8:30–11 p.m., Kenville Studios, 323 Hoover. $5 (dance with lesson, $7). 769–0041.*

"Bob Marley Birthday Bash": The Blind Pig. Headliner is **Turbulence,** an up-and-coming young Jamaican reggae singer with a captivatingly melodic vocal style whose music blends funk, hip-hop, and dancehall influences. Opening acts TBA. *8:30 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets $25 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, $30 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**"The Goofy Movie": U-M Basement Arts.** Sarah Ashley and Meredith Stepien direct U-M students in their stage adaptation of the 1995 Disney animated feature about the beleaguered teenage son of Goofy, the popular cartoon dog who proves to be a feckless single parent. "Someday I would like to see a cartoon

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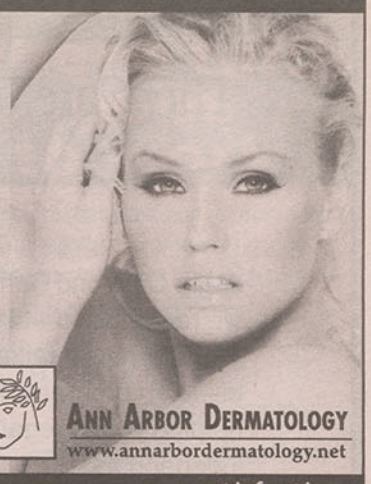

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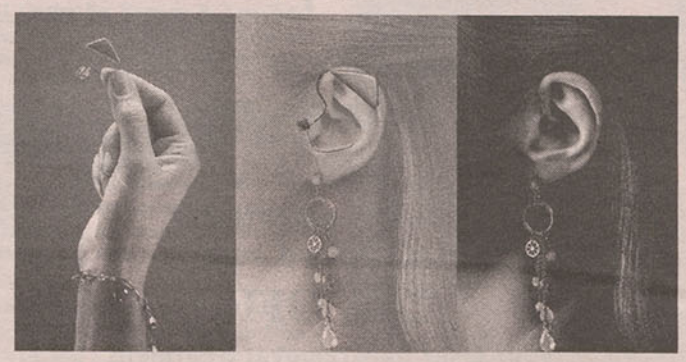

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about the court battle he went through to gain custody of Max," Roger Ebert remarked. *11 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–6800.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

10 SUNDAY

"Torah Yoga": U-M Hillel. Institute for Jewish Spirituality rabbi Miriam Klotz leads this program that intersperses short talks on key Jewish spiritual concepts with gentle yoga movements. Wear comfortable workout clothes and bring a mat (some mats available). *Noon–2 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. $5 (students $2). 769–0500.*

★**"Finding Fun in February": Kerrytown Shops.** An all-ages scavenger hunt that leads from shop to shop in the Kerrytown shops building to find facts about the area and its merchants. Prize of a gift basket. *1 p.m., Found, Kerrytown Shops. Free. 302–3060.*

"Great Lakes, Plant Passions: Biogeography of the Great Lakes": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. *February 10 & 17.* A two-part talk by U-M Herbarium curator Tony Reznicek. *1–3:30 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $25 (members and U-M students, $20). 998–9540.*

★**"Rose Culture": Huron Valley Rose Society.** All invited to join a group discussion. Refreshments. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 277–0112.*

★**"All about Trees, Without the Leaves!": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** A county naturalist TBA leads a hike to examine bark, branches, and buds to identify trees and learn which ones are animal food sources. *2–4 p.m., Miller Preserve, Parker Rd.'s dead-end at Dexter-Chelsea Rd., Dexter. Free. 971–6337.*

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★**Jeff Kinney: Liberty Borders.** This popular Web comic artist reads from ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid,*** his book-length cartoon adaptation of his online comic strip about a preteen boy's ups and downs in junior high. Also, signing. *2 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"The Eighth Promise: An American Son's Tribute to His Toisanese Mother": 2008 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads (Ann Arbor District Library).** All invited to join a discussion of the prominent California attorney William Poy Lee's widely acclaimed memoir blending his mother's memories of her war-torn childhood in China of the 30s and 40s and his own memories of growing up in the housing projects of San Francisco Chinatown and amid the North Beach counterculture in the 60s and 70s. The book has been chosen for the annual Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads communitywide reading program. Other Ann Arbor Reads programs this month include a talk on "Food in Chinese Culture" on February 3, a Chinese New Year Celebration on February 9, a hands-on introduction to "Masks of China" on February 17, and a screening of part 2 of the PBS documentary *Becoming American: The Chinese Experience* on February 20 (see listings). *2–3 p.m., Eastern Accents, 214 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 327–4560.*

"The Vagina Monologues": The Ark/SafeHouse Center. Grace Morand directs Eve Ensler's 1996 Obie-winning play, a series of ribald, explosively funny monologues exploring a woman's relation to her body, sexuality, and language. Originally a one-woman show, it is now regularly cast for several monologists. The cast of local celebrities includes WUOM personalities Tamar Charney, Jennifer Guerra, and Charity Nebbe, along with WEMU music director Linda Yohn and DJ Jessica Webster, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre director-actress Wendy Wright, and others TBA. A benefit for SafeHouse, the local shelter for battered women and their children. *2 & 7 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 (general admission) & $35 (reserved seating) in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS. Benefactor tickets (includes reserved seats and for the 7 p.m. show only a preconcert reception) $60 in advance only at 973–0242, ext. 202.*

"Before It Hits Home": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 8 Friday. 2 p.m.

storytelling

David Holt

Appalachian tales

Forty years ago David Holt visited the Appalachian Mountains for the first time and began immersing himself in the music and stories he heard there. Since then, he has studied with many people and taught many more. Today, all these people and Holt's decades of learning make their way into his performances.

He'll regale you with tales older than the hills, as well as stories of his grandmother—a woman, he'll tell you, who "really knew how to put the *fun* in *dysfunctional*." He tells of jamming on the set of the Coen brothers' *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* with George Clooney and Holly Hunter, and then draws on his Texas heritage to recite cowboy poems about reincarnation and horse doo-doo. Or he might tell of the first motorcycle in Black Mountain, North Carolina. (That's "motorsickle" to you, city slickers.) The title alone brings a knowing smile to your face, don't it?

But Holt's stories and songs take us far beyond *Beverly Hillbillies* stereotypes. After you've listened to him for an hour or two, you feel transported back in time—back to a world before the Internet, before Guitar Hero, before TV, before electricity even.

Over the past four decades, Holt has studied with and been mentored by a lengthy and still-growing list of storytellers and musicians, famous and unknown: Roy Acuff, Grandpa Jones, 123-year-old Susie Brunson—who taught him to play the washboard—and Ann Arbor's own Percy Danforth, from whom he learned to play the bones with both hands (Holt's dad taught him the one-handed style when he was still a boy). Holt even learned advanced jaw harp techniques from Dizzy Gillespie. Yes, jaw harp, from *the* Dizzy Gillespie.

Then there's the equally long list, reading almost like a complete roll call of traditional musicians, of people he's performed with on stage, radio, TV, and recordings: Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, Chet Atkins, and Doc Watson, for starters.

Tally up the inventory of instruments he plays, banjo, slide guitar, guitar, harmonica, bones, spoons, jaw harp, mouth bow, Jack Daniel's bottle, and even a paper bag, and catalog his numerous recordings, videos, and books. Add in the Grammys he's won—four—and all the major motion pictures he's acted in. Well, okay, that's a short list of one—he appeared as the mandolin-playing village idiot in *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Holt is always teaching, passing along this culture he's lived in for so long, and always paying homage to the people he learned from, acknowledging his debt to them. We owe a similar debt to Holt for his part in preserving and passing along a way of life that might otherwise have been forgotten.

David Holt headlines the opening night of the Ark's Twenty-first Annual Storytelling Festival on Friday, February 15.

—Sandor Slomovits

"Les Miserables": Huron Players (Huron High School). See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"All Night Strut": EMU Theater Department. See 8 Friday. 3 p.m.

★EMU Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band: EMU Music Department. Miller Asbill and John Zastoupil direct these music-student ensembles in a lighthearted, fast-paced collage concert. Percussionist Brian Young, one of the 2 winners of the annual William Stewart Performance Competition, performs the 5th movement of U-M music professor Michael Daugherty's *UFO* with the Symphonic Band, which also performs a wind arrangement of Bach's Prelude and Fugue in G Minor, Ives's *Old Home Days Suite,* and Michael Colgrass's *Bali*. The Symphonic Band performs Walter Piston's *Turnbridge Fair,* Donald Grantham's *J'Ai Ete au Bal,* and music by Percy Grainger TBA. *3 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"'Top Chef' Cookoff": U-M Hillel. Ilan Hall, the second-season winner of the Bravo cable channel *Top Chef* reality cooking show, squares off against Hillel's renowned chef Emil in a determined battle for best chef. Spectators welcome. *3:30 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. $5 (students $2). 769–0500.*

"The History of Jack and the Bean-Stalk": Dreamland Theater. *February 10, 17, & 25.* This original multimedia marionette show by puppeteer Naia Venturi, adapted from the first published version of the children's classic fairy tale, follows Jack from his innocent childhood to his journey up the beanstalk and a chance to claim what is rightfully his. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids 5 & under, free). 657–2337.*

★Mark Schultz: Concordia University. Concordia University organist Schultz performs a program of organ works by J. S. Bach, Buxtehude, Brahms, and recent composers. Accompanist is Concordia flute professor Holly Clemens. *4 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–7300.*

★Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music. U-M music faculty perform in various chamber ensembles. Program: Mozart's Quintet for Winds and Piano, Beethoven's Quintet for Winds and Piano, Brahms's Sextet. *4 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss 2 murder mysteries that revolve around dogs, Virginia Lanier's ***A Bloodhound to Die For*** and Susan Conant's ***Bloodlines.*** *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★Rainbow Book Club. All invited to discuss ***Notice,*** Heather Lewis's novel about a young prostitute who's drawn into a dangerous situation when a client introduces her to his wife. *4:30–6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4186.*

Gala and Auction: Pioneer High School Band. Live and silent auctions of donated goods and services, an hors d'oeuvre buffet, and a performance by the band. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit the band. Age 21 & older admitted. *5:30–9 p.m., Four Points Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets $30 in advance only. 769–1060.*

★"Theology on Tap": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Outreach Committee. All invited to join an informal discussion of social, theological, and political issues TBA. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 116 E. Washington. Free. 213–5378.*

Wu Man and the Bay Area Shawm Band: University Musical Society. Internationally renowned *pipa* virtuoso Wu Man, dubbed by the *L.A. Times* "the artist most responsible for bringing the pipa to the Western world," joins the elegant refinement of his Chinese lute with the Bay Area Shawm Band's raucous, earthy Chinese peasant music. Called "the gypsies of China," and performing on fiddle, horn, mouth organ, flute, cymbals, and other instruments, shawm bands play a gutsy, brassy, mostly percussive music whose improvisatory blueslike sound conceals ancient composed melodies of great complexity and beauty. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$56 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 3 Sunday. Tonight: ***The Last Kiss*** (Tom Goldwyn, 2006). Comedy-drama about a man thrown into a panic on the eve of his wedding who's tempted to take up with a beautiful coed. Remake of Gabriele Muccino's *L'Ultimo Bacio*. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **Pfizer Family-Friendly Film Series. "The Iron Giant"** (Brad Bird, 1999). A young boy befriends a childlike robot from outer space. $8.50 (students, $6.75; kids 12 & under, free). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 1:30 p.m.

11 MONDAY

★"The Tent of Abraham": Beth Israel Congregation. Talk by rabbi and Shalom Center (Philadelphia) founder Arthur Waskow, who also gives a talk at 3 p.m. this afternoon on **"Beyond Oil: How Faith Communities Can Combat Global Scorching"** at U-M Hillel, 1429 Hill St. *Noon–1:15 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive. Free. 665–9897.*

★"Aesthetics and Existence: The Case of Bruno Schulz": U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies. Talk by Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland) international Polish studies professor Michal Pawel Markowski. *4–5:30 p.m., 2609 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★American Sign Language Adult Storytelling: Ann Arbor District Library. *February 11 & 25.* All invited to enjoy stories by members of the Ann Arbor Deaf Club using ASL. Interpreter service not provided. *6:30–8 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Freespace (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"Fly Tying and Guide Forum": Trout Unlimited. Talk by a speaker TBA. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free. 433–2661.*

★"A Presidential Debate: Abraham Lincoln vs. Jefferson Davis": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Belleville storyteller and Abe Lincoln reenactor Fred Priebe and local Civil War reenactor David Walker, in the personas and dress of Lincoln and Davis, present a spirited debate about secession. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 930–0617.*

★"Flower Power: Oversized Imagery in Quilts": Ann Arbor FiberArts Guild. Talk by Grand Blanc fabric artist Debra Danko. Refreshments. Preceded by social time (6:30 p.m.). *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 996–8601.*

★"American Jazz 101: Modern Jazz": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by U-M musicology professor Mark Clague in conjunction with the February 16 performance by Ahmad Jamal (see listing). *7–8:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★Li-Young Lee: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This widely acclaimed Chinese American poet from Chicago, often compared to the likes of Stanley Kunitz and Billy Collins, reads from ***Behind My Eyes,*** a collection of playful, erotic poems exploring the beauty and mystery immanent in everyday life. Sign-

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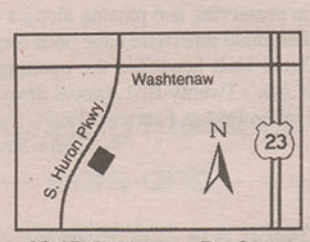

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11 MONDAY *continued*

ing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Orientation Toward Recovery": National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Washtenaw County.** Talk by Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services mental health professional Kate Woods. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 994–6611.*

★**"Nonphilatelic Hobbies": Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** Club members and guests give short talks on their hobbies besides stamp collecting. Also, a mini stamp auction and American Philatelic Society circuit books. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

★**"What Kind of Jew Was Jesus?": Beth Israel Congregation.** Talk by U-M Near Eastern studies professor Gabriele Boccaccini. *7:45 p.m., Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 665–9897.*

★**Jazz Ensemble: EMU Music Department.** Donald Babcock directs this music-student ensemble in a varied program of jazz classics and fresh charts. *8 p.m., Quirk Theatre, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Buckwheat Zydeco: The Ark. Buckwheat Zydeco is the stage name of Stanley Dural, a celebrated zydeco accordionist who, legend has it, took up the instrument in response to a challenge from zydeco king Clifton Chenier, in whose band Dural was playing keyboards. Zydeco is the joyous Creole music with the distinctive zigzag beat, and Dural's brand of this music has a very strong blues bias, with a large dose of New Orleans R&B. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Kate Voegele: The Blind Pig. *All ages admitted.* Pop-rock singer-songwriter from Ohio whose influences range from Carole King and Joni Mitchell to Lisa Loeb and Lucinda Williams. Opening act TBA. *8:30 p.m.–midnight (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. $10 at the door only. 996–8555.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Oscars Series. "Hamlet" (Laurence Olivier, 1948). Stellar British-made version of Shakespeare's tragedy. Stars Laurence Olivier. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

12 TUESDAY

★**"Make Your Own Green Tropical Plant Terrarium: Presentation, Demonstration, and Hands-On Creation": Good Thyme Garden Club.** A club member TBA leads a hands-on terrarium-making session. Bring your own container or buy one at the meeting. Sale of potting material and plants. *10 a.m.–noon, English Gardens, 155 Maple Rd. Free. 332–4791.*

"The Light and Dark of Globalization": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Lecture by U-M School of Public Policy business administration and public policy professor Marina Whitman. 6th in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $50 (members, $35) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

★**"Changing Perspectives on Sexual Violence and Harassment": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** *February 12, 18, & 19.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: U-M Native American studies professor Andy Smith on **"Sexual Violence and the State: New Approaches to Anti-violence Organizing."** Also this month: University of Illinois psychology professor Louise Fitzgerald on **"Sexual Harassment in Higher Education and the Workplace"** (February 18), and U-M social work lecturer Perry Silverschanz on **"Sticks and Stones (and Queer Jokes): What Are the Consequences of Heterosexist Harassment?"** (February 19). *Noon–1:30 p.m. (Feb. 12 & 19) & 3–4 p.m. (Feb. 18), 2239 Lane Hall. Free. 764–9537.*

★**Books and Coffee: Concordia University.** All invited to join Concordia communications professor Barbara Adler and visiting English instructor Ruth Zielke to discuss Jane Austen's classic novel ***Pride and Prejudice*** and reasons for its continuing popularity in the 21st century. This semester's book series consists of classic works everyone has read—or feels they should have—and each meeting is followed by discussion about whether the work in question is still relevant. Coffee. *4 p.m., Concordia University Riverside Conference Room, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–4612.*

Noism08

Global choreography

Still contending with the loss of George Balanchine twenty-five years on—the legendary choreographer and New York City Ballet founder died in 1983—the dance world tends to pin its hopes for fresh new ballets on a couple of European-American gentlemen. Setting aside the impossibility that anyone might live up to the Balanchine legacy, I'd vote for broadening out the pool and throwing in Noism's Jo Kanamori for consideration.

Kanamori, thirty-three, began dance training early with his father and subsequently studied with companies in Japan and Switzerland. His enviable experience in Europe also included stints with Nederlands Dans Theater II (for which he first choreographed), the Lyon Opera Ballet, and the Gothenburg Ballet. After returning to Japan, Kanamori founded Noism04 in 2004. (The name of the company changes with the year.)

On February 15, UMS presents Noism08 in *NINA materialize sacrifice*, a stunning piece of dance-theater, which premiered in 2005 in Niigata, Japan; Noism is the resident dance company at the City Performing Arts Center there. With choreography and lighting (just as critical, as you'll see) by Kanamori and music by Vietnamese-French composer Ton That An, *NINA*, with its techno-ballet sheen, is as watchable as it is occasionally disturbing.

If the age-old artistic debate of color versus design, or drawing, still holds any sway, you'd have to put Kanamori in the draftsman camp. His universe is a stark, maybe even sinister, study in contrasts, riddled with sharp angles and fluid lines. Yet to judge by his self-consciously futuristic, cinematic vision, he's eminently twenty-first century.

In *NINA* Kanamori sets up a postapocalyptic landscape with women as expressionless mannequins—to be fair, the men in dark suits also lack color and emotion—and minimal decor. If you're thinking Butoh, you're on the right track, but his is a post-Butoh sensibility fusing East and West, ballet and modern dance.

Early in the piece, a precise, balletic solo in a square of white light suggests a stylized gymnastics floor routine; a second dancer joins in and they lean into each other like a couple of sumo wrestlers on a mat. Later, two men enact a loopy, snaky mirrored duet, leading to some kind of confrontation. At different times, the group circumnavigates the stage in a slow-motion shuffle, as if ice skating.

Kanamori also samples ballet history with refreshing irreverence. At one point I detected a whiff of pagan sacrifice, à la *The Rite of Spring;* at another the perfume of a Romantic ballet pas de quatre, complete with *Giselle*-like long tutus. Throughout the piece, dancers enter and exit dramatically by picking up the backdrop.

I'd love to see a European or American ballet company stage *NINA*, or anything else by Kanamori. He gives globalism a good turn.

—Stephanie Rieke

★**"TweenSpace: Sock Puppet Theater": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 4 & 5 invited to make a sock puppet and perform skits with their friends. *4:30–6 p.m., AADL Northeast branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Ann Arbor Backgammon Club.** Players of all levels of ability invited to play this popular board game. Bring your board. *7 p.m., Leopold Bros., 523 S. Main. Free. 936–6876.*

"The New Orleans Table": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse sous chef (and New Orleans native) Julio Vanderpool and food writer **Sara Roahen,** author of *Gumbo Tales: Finding My Place at the New Orleans Table,* host a dinner showcasing the varied cuisine of New Orleans. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a book signing. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

"The Art of Blending": Vinology. Vinology staff discuss methods of blending different wines to create a new flavor. Followed by a wine-blending competition in which participants must create a blended wine and a label, name, and backstory for it. Materials provided. The winner is allowed to take home his or her blended wine. *7–9 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main St. $50. Reservations required. 222–0941.*

★**"Optimizing Thyroid Function": People's Food Coop.** Talk by local naturopath Diana Quinn. *7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. Reservations requested. 994–4589.*

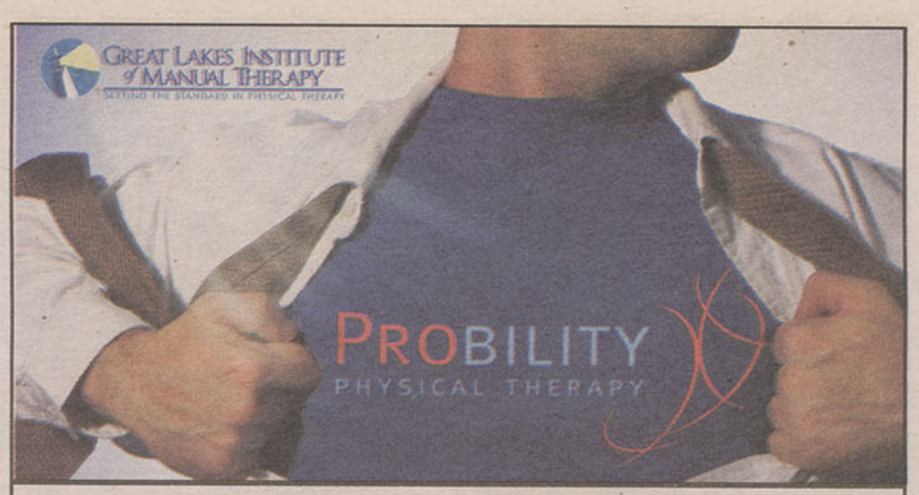
★**"Love Your Heart: Health Information for Women": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Packard Community Clinic physician Mira Sinha and nutritionist Karen Koeppe. The first 50 women attending receive a Valentine flower, heart-healthy chocolate, and more. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"From People of the Book to Literary Nation": U-M Center for Judaic Studies.** Talk by Northwestern University Jewish studies professor Marcus Moseley. *7 p.m., 2022 Thayer, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

★**"U.S. China Relations: The Upcoming Agenda": U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Talk by U-M political science professor Kenneth Lieberthal, who served as the National Security Council senior director for Asia during the Clinton administration. *7 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764–6308.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & older invited to discuss ***I Am Legend,*** Richard Matheson's novel about a lone human in a postapocalyptic world. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus,*** *Atlantic Monthly* and *Science* contributor Charles Mann's riveting revisionist ex-



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12 TUESDAY *continued*

amination of pre-Columbian societies and cultures in North and South America. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★University Philharmonia Orchestra and University Choir: U-M School of Music. Andrew George and Paul Rardin conduct these music-student groups in 2 of Brahms's great choral and orchestral works that feature some of his most captivating and memorable melodies. *Naenie* (Lament) invokes Greek mythology to help mortals accept the inevitable and even peaceful deliverance of death, while *Schicksalslied* (Song of Destiny) yearns for the blessed existence of the gods while enduring the travails of life on earth. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★Kyoko Kashiwagi and Joel Schoenhals: EMU Music Department. Detroit-based violinist Kashiwagi and EMU piano professor Schoenhals perform 3 Brahms violin sonatas. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Tea Leaf Green: The Ark. Popular Bay Area pop-rock jam band. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Vampire Weekend: The Blind Pig. *All ages admitted.* New York City pop-punk quartet. Opening act is **Sam Buck Rosen,** a Brooklyn, New York, reggae-inflected art-punk quintet fronted by singer-songwriter Rosen. *8:30–11:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, $12 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Joe Strummer: The Future Is Unwritten" (Julian Schnabel, 2007). *February 12 & 13.* Meticulous documentary about the charismatic cofounder and lead singer of the seminal punk band the Clash. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

13 WEDNESDAY

"Along the Tracks: Michigan and the Underground Railroad": Wild Swan Theater. *February 13–16.* This award-winning local children's theater company presents Jeff Chastang's play, a winner of the Kennedy Center New American Play Award. Three African American teenagers, desperate to be reunited with their parents already in Canada, flee northward via the Underground Railroad. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language for deaf viewers, and backstage "touch tours" and audio descriptions are available for blind audience members. Cast: Sean Rodriguez, Edmund Alyn Jones, Angela Roberts, Travis Pratt, James Michael Morgan, Jeremy Salvatori, and Ryan Iver-Klann. Live music by Peter Madcat Ruth. *Note:* At press time, the February 13 & 14 shows and the 10 a.m. show on February 15 were sold out. *10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children, $8; lap passes for kids 2 and younger, $3) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

Charles Baxter: Ann Arbor Book Festival Authors at Lunch. *See review, p. 57.* This renowned novelist reads from his new book (see listing below). Admission price includes a 3-course lunch and a copy of the book. Signing. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Campus Inn, 615 E. Huron. Tickets $50 ($225 for the 5-program series) in advance at Shaman Drum Bookshop and online at aabookfestival.org, and at the door. 369–3366.*

★"The Slave as Tourist: David Dorr's 'A Colored Man Round the World'": U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies. Talk by U-M English professor Sandra Gunning. *Noon, 4701 Haven Hall. Free. 764–5517.*

"Why Me? Children's Responses to Their Parents' Mental Health Issues": Washtenaw Area Council for Children. Talk by local social worker Terri MacKenzie. *Noon–2 p.m., Washtenaw Intermediate School District Vogel B, 1819 S. Wagner. $15 (students, $10) includes buffet lunch. Preregistration required. 434–4215.*

★"Jews and Yiddish in the Ukraine": Jewish Community Center. Talk by U-M Slavic and Judaic studies professor Mikhail Krutikov. All invited. *1 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:45–2:45 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"Challenges to Child and Family Welfare": U-M School of Social Work Dean's Lecture Series. Talk by Child Welfare League of America CEO Christine James-Brown. *3:30 p.m., SSWB Educational Conference Center, 1080 South University. Free. 763–9534.*

★"U.S.-Czech Republic Relations": U-M Ford School of Public Policy. Talk by **Martin Palous,** the current Czech ambassador to the UN and a former Czech ambassador to the U.S. *4–5:30 p.m., 1120 Weill Hall, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★"Pollution at the Poles": U-M Exhibit Museum Science Cafe. Short presentations by U-M public health professors Nil Basu and Gerald Keeler. Followed by discussion. Part of the Exhibit Museum's "Science at the Poles" winter term programs. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by free hors d'oeuvres. *6–7:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 763–4191.*

★"From Ewe to You": Ann Arbor District Library. Local sheep farmers Linda Koeppel, Neil Kentner, and Mary Underwood share their experience producing yarn from the pasture to the finished product. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"Using Enzymes to Resolve Allergies & Boost Your Immune System Systemic Enzymes, a Pathway to Health": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local acupuncturist Gary Merel. *7–9 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★"Stewardship in Your Own Yard": Wild Ones. Talk by local landscape architect Mike Appel. *7 p.m., 125 U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–6981.*

★"The Struggle for Greek Independence and the International Diplomatic War in the 1820s": U-M Classics Department Modern Greek Program Pallas Lecture. Lecture by McGill University Hellenic studies professor Andre Gerolymatos. *7 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 936–6099.*

★Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of ***Memories of My Melancholy Whores,*** Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novella about an old man who finds love only at the end of his life, as he is waiting to die. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973–0846.*

★Charles Baxter: Shaman Drum Bookshop. *See review, p. 57.* This nationally renowned fiction writer and poet, a former U-M English professor who several years ago returned to his home state of Minnesota to write full time, reads from his acclaimed new novel ***The Soul Thief***, the lyrical, eerie tale of Nathaniel, a middle-aged man who encounters an old friend from graduate school who always seemed to know more about Nathaniel than he remembers telling him and who now suggests that Nathaniel's identity may in fact not be his own. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Kimberly Cole-Luevano and Kathryn Goodson: EMU Music Department. Clarinetist Cole-Luevano and pianist Goodson—both EMU music professors—perform the world premiere of Roshanne Etezady's *Bright Angel*, Poulenc's Sonata, and Berg's *Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano*. They are joined by U-M clarinet professor Deborah Chodacki for Ponchielli's *Il Convegno*. *7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★Alex Kahn and Sophia Michahelles: FestiFools. These U-M puppet artists-in-residence, the creators of the West Village Halloween Parade, discuss their recent work, their work for this year's local FestiFools parade on April 1. *7–8 p.m., Palmer Commons Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 615–8648.*

★"Gardens of Eastern Germany": Ann Arbor Garden Club. Lecture by club president Bonnie Ion. *7:30 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–2015.*

★History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. U-M history and American culture professor Penny von Eschen leads a discussion of her book ***Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War.*** *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Joe Strummer: The Future Is Unwritten" (Julian Schnabel, 2007). See 12 Tuesday. Times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

14 THURSDAY

"Along the Tracks: Michigan and the Underground Railroad": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**"Beatrix Potter and Conservation": Women's National Farm and Garden Association.** Talk by local conservation activist and long-distance swimmer Liz Elling. *12:30 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 662–0052.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Chapter president Nabuko Sakoda leads a session of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

★**"The Fat Doctor: Luther and Biography": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** Talk by Oxford University history professor Lyndal Roper, whose most recent book is *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany. 4 p.m., Tisch Hall, 435 S. State St. Free. 764–6305.*

★**Trimpin: U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Lecture by this German-born, Seattle-based composer who combines computers with traditional acoustic instruments to create such projects as the performance of a player piano roll by Macintosh-controlled mallets that strike 100 Dutch wooden shoes arranged in a horseshoe from the edge of an Indiana opera house. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764–0397.*

★**Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club.** All invited to join club members in making toys and stands for their birds. Materials provided, or bring some of your own. Bring your bird. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662–4582.*

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

★**"Lick the Sugar Habit": Nutritional Healing Center.** Talk by local chiropractor Mark Perlmutter. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

"Zingfeast: Italian Banchetto": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's chef Rodger Bowser hosts a dinner of speck ham, Sicilian *estratto,* and other lesser-known Italian foods. *7 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. $40 (couples, $70). Reservations required. 663–3400.*

"Big Ales": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen strong ales, higher-alcohol versions of pale ales that are sometimes referred to as old ales, stock ales, or winter warmers. Also, barley wines, scotch ales, Double IPAs, and Belgian ales. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**"Heart Burns: An Unvalentine's Event": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 invited to smash a heart-shaped pinata, eat some chocolate, and decorate broken cookies. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Short Play Series": U-M Basement Arts.** *February 14–16.* U-M students present an evening of short plays by contemporary playwrights David Ives, Jose Rivera, Alison Weiss, Lauren Lopez, and Julia Albain. *7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. (248) 752–6577.*

"All Night Strut": EMU Theater Department. See 8 Friday. 7 p.m.

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. *February 14–17.* Malcolm Tulip directs U-M musical theater students in a studio production of Bertolt Brecht's exuberant parable set shortly after WW II. (Yes, musical theater students: they're working on their acting skills.) Two Russian collectives settle a dispute about who should control a particular valley—the goatherders who inhabited it before the war, or the farmers who liberated it from the Nazis and developed its irrigation system—and they put on a play to celebrate their agreement. This play-within-a-play is a fairy tale based on an ancient Chinese fable about a dispute over who should have custody of the governor's child—a housemaid, who rescued him when his mother abandoned him during a palace revolt and has raised him as her own, or his

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14 THURSDAY *continued*

real mother, who, when the political dust settles, returns to claim her child in order to regain her royal status. Meanwhile, a low-life civil servant who accidentally rescues the royal prince from pursuing soldiers is rewarded by being made a judge. He rules with a strange sort of logic, and of course, it is he who decides which woman will take the child. The drama applies a variety of rapidly shifting conventions, from buffoonery to classical language. *7:30 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Towsley Musical Theatre Studio, 1226 Murfin. Tickets $16 (students with ID, $9) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"As You Like It": U-M Theatre Department. *February 14–17.* Gillian Eaton directs U-M theater students in Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, a high-spirited exploration of the requirements of justice between lovers, brothers, friends, and rivals. Set in the Forest of Arden, where a duke and his court are living in exile, the main plot concerns Rosalind, a young noblewoman who must disguise herself as a man to win the respect of her lover, Orlando, and of the world at large. With its deft counterpointing of multiple plots, its extravagance of word and wit, and its canny assault upon the various socially sanctioned ways in which people inflict themselves upon one another, *As You Like It* is arguably the greatest comic drama in English. It is certainly one of the most entertaining. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $16 (students, $9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.*

Ann Arbor Ski Club. *February 14 & 28.* All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. The February 14 meeting is followed by a **Valentine's Day party** and the February 28 meeting is followed by a **Sadie Hawkins Day dance.** Refreshments available. *8–11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 761–3419.*

My Folky Valentine: The Ark. In-the-round performances by 5 veteran Ann Arbor/Detroit-area husband-and-wife singer-songwriter duos, including folk-rock by **Annie and Rod Capps,** bluesy folk by **Jan Krist and Alan Finkbeiner,** folk-rock by **Allison Downey and John Austin,** Celtic-American fusion by **J. Oscar and Lauran Bittinger,** and **John and C. J. Milroy** of the alt-country band Tangerine Trousers. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Christian Tetzlaff: University Musical Society. Once typecast as an intellectual artist who played only difficult concertos, this German violinist has become one of the most important violinists of the decade, combining expressive warmth with precise dynamic control. In demand as a guest soloist with orchestras worldwide, Tetzlaff has also produced critically acclaimed recordings, including one of Bach's sonatas and partitas that the *New York Times* called "an altogether breathtaking release." Tonight's program: Ysaye's Sonata for Solo Violin, J. S. Bach's Sonata no. 3, Bartok's Sonata for Unaccompanied Violin, and 3 of Paganini's 24 Caprices. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$50 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Dancing at Lughnasa": Concordia University. *February 14–17.* Concordia University theater instructor Laura Bird directs Concordia students in Brian Friel's Tony Award–winning play about 5 sisters in rural Ireland in the mid-30s. When an uncle returns from missionary service and an absent father returns to visit, the women are nudged to reevaluate their faith and confront some uncomfortable truths. The action is set during the festival of Lughnasa, a pagan harvest celebration that comes to represent all the women's repressed longings and desires. *8 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. 995–7300.*

★"Two Candles Burning": U-M School of Music. *February 14–16.* U-M professors Stephen Rush and Michael Rodemer present their new chamber opera, a work whose musical elements suggest late Schoenberg and Wagner, influenced "by Run DMC and Chuck D," Rush says, "if Chuck D were the lead soloist for Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*." In part an homage to Sartre's dark existentialist play *No Exit,* the opera portrays 2 angry and pigheaded adults confronted with an otherworldly intervention by their mutual ex-lover. Scored for string quartet and 4 soloists, it features vocalists Wendy Bloom, Kim Dolanski, Stephen Lusmann, and Rico Serbo and the quartet of violinists Yehonatan Berick and Lisa Roelofs, violist Megan Ferguson, and cellist Katri Ervamaa. *8 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Media Center video studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Kira Soltanovich: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *February 14–16.* Ann Arbor debut of this Soviet-born, San Francisco–bred stand-up comic and actress most widely known from her regular role on the Oxygen Network reality show *Girls Behaving Badly.* Her act blends an oversized, hyperactive persona with skewed observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

15 FRIDAY

"Along the Tracks: Michigan and the Underground Railroad": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists. See 8 Friday. Today: guest organists Jason Branham and Christopher Reynolds. Noon.

★Ice Age to Snowball Earth: How Geological Discoveries Drove Climate Dynamics and Geodynamics": U-M Department of Geological Sciences. Talk by Harvard University geology professor Paul Hoffman. Followed by reception. *4–5 p.m., 1528 Little, 425 East University. Free. 647–9938.*

Winter Carnival: Northside Elementary School. Indoor games and activities for kids and their families, including One Person Soccer, Double Dodge, Dig for Gold, the Lollipop Tree, the Duck Pond, bowling, bingo, cakewalk, rope jumping, face painting, mask making, moon bouncing, and coloring tote bags. Tattoos. Silent auction. *6–8:30 p.m., Northside Elementary School, 912 Barton Dr. Free admission; game tickets 25¢. 994–1958.*

★"Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. *7–9:15 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 971–8576.*

★Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department. See 8 Friday. Today: poetry by **Megan Levad** and prose by **Steve Dabrowski.** 7 p.m.

★"Short Play Series": U-M Basement Arts. See 14 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

"All Night Strut": EMU Theater Department. See 8 Friday. 7 p.m.

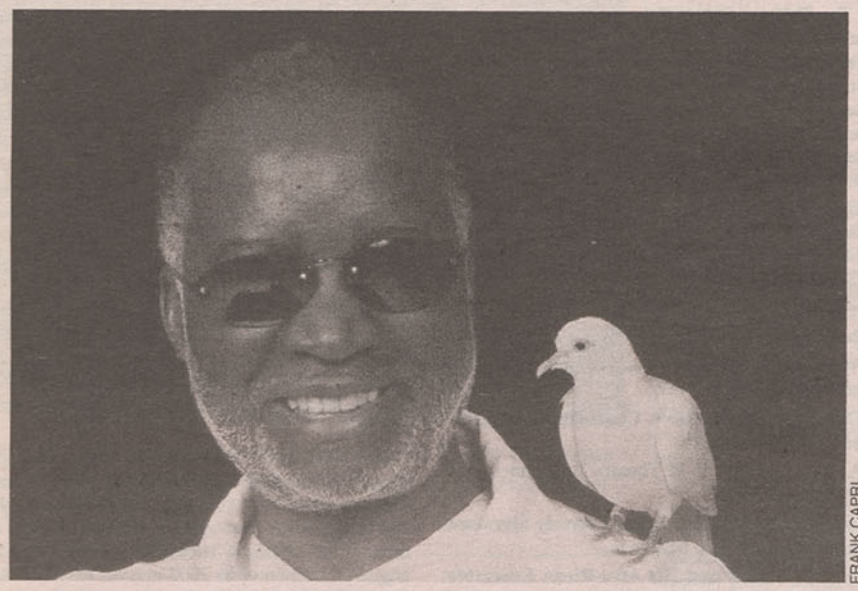
"Relying on the Kindness of Strangers and Angels: Should Community Members Have a Role in Deciding What's Fair in Responding to an Epidemic?": Blackbird Theater. Panel discussion by speakers TBA. Followed by Q&A. In conjunction with Blackbird's staged reading of *Angels in America* (see 9 Saturday listing). *7–8:30 p.m., Blackbird Theater, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). $10. 332–3848.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Lake Superior State. *February 15 & 16. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

★"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts such as the Srimad Bhagavatam, on Shavite, Tantric, and Bhakti traditions, and on the writings of poet/saints such as Kabir, Tulsidas, and Mirabai. Accompanied by live music based on Indian rhythms on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

"Disney's Beauty and the Beast": Burns Park Players 25th Annual Production. See 8 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"21st Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark. *February 15 & 16.* Storytelling continues to enjoy a renaissance as a form of popular entertainment, and the Ark's annual festival features performances by top-notch storytellers from around the country and the state. Tonight's headliner is **David Holt** *(see review, p. 61),* a widely acclaimed veteran Texas-born folklorist who specializes in southern mountain songs, ballads, and stories. Opening acts are local storytellers **Badria Jazairi** and another local storyteller TBA. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 (evening concerts) & $10 (Saturday children's concert) in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*



FRANK CAPRI

Ahmad Jamal

The art of the modern jazz piano trio

Jazz critics, like pollsters and pundits, are often wrong. When in 1958 a relatively unknown twenty-eight-year-old pianist named Ahmad Jamal had a hit tune named "Poinciana" that stayed on the top-ten charts for weeks and weeks, he was dismissed as superficial and ephemeral. Half a century later, most of his detractors are gone, but Jamal is still going strong.

Born in Pittsburgh, he studied piano at an early age, and after a short period of touring he settled in Chicago, where at age twenty he founded his first jazz trio. He has stayed a leader ever since, and except for the rare orchestral gig or hosting a visiting soloist, has worked only with his own groups. The first trio followed the then fashionable example of Nat King Cole, consisting of piano, bass, and guitar. He soon replaced the guitarist with a drummer, and by 1958 he had the perfect combo, in tandem with two equally talented musicians, bassist Israel Crosby and drummer Vernell Fournier, and a permanent job at the Pershing Lounge in Chicago.

Detractors aside, this was an extremely popular group. Jamal had developed a modern jazz approach to the piano that differed from the prevailing bop style, which drew mainly from the example of Bud Powell. Powell concentrated on fluid right hand improvisations that were derived from saxophone or trumpet lines, with sporadic rhythmic jabs from the left hand, consisting of reduced two- or three-note chords. Jamal's approach was more pianistic: he played with both hands, using complex, highly colorful, constantly changing voicings, and his lines were often sparse, leaving space for the other members of the trio. Most important, in contrast to the flowing, often predictable bop flow, Jamal varied his rhythms, creating tension and resolution in a dramatic manner.

Although Jamal is one of the truly original stylists in modern jazz, his historical role is always underestimated by the music's establishment. Looking back on his long career, however, one has to be impressed by his accomplishments. It is now acknowledged that one of his earliest recordings, "Pavanne," was the source for two cornerstones of modal jazz in the 1960s—Miles Davis's "So What" and the related John Coltrane tune "Impressions." Some have traced elements of funk back to Jamal's early work as well.

After all these years, Jamal continues to refine his trio concept, relying on long-term relationships with other players. Drummer Idris Muhammad has been with him for a decade, and bassist James Cammack for more than twenty years. Jamal still plays "Poinciana," but his playing has evolved; he now favors lavish introductions that contrast with his often-sparse theme statements, and his attack now seems stronger and more dramatic. He brings his trio to Hill Auditorium on Saturday, February 16.

—Piotr Michalowski

Casting Crowns: Rush Concerts. Award-winning Christian soft-rock band from Florida that has released 7 consecutive singles that topped various Christian pop charts. Opening acts are **John Waller,** a Christian pop singer-songwriter from Georgia, and **Leeland,** a Christian pop-rock band from Texas. *7:30 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. Tickets $18–$78 in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

★**Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers.** Slide-illustrated 10–15-minute talks by club members on the theme of "Winter." All invited. "You'll want to come a few minutes early to catch up on (or start) the latest rumors," says an organizer. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church social hall, 306 N. Division ("just up the hill from the Amtrak station"). Free. (248) 348–4098.*

★**"Seasons of Love": EMU Music Department.** Trey Jacobs conducts the **University Choir** and **Chamber Choir** in a program of music on the theme of love, including works by Brahms, Dowland, and Dello Joio. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–0280.*

★**Symphony Band Chamber Winds: U-M School of Music.** U-M conducting grad students direct this music-student ensemble in Weill's *Threepenny Opera Suite,* Holloway's Concertino no. 3, Grantham's *Music for the Blanton,* and Ibert's Cello Concerto, with cellist Yeonjin Kim. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Red Arrow Highway: Canterbury House. EP release party for this Ann Arbor septet whose repertoire ranges from the winsome, ambling pop ballad "Lilac" to the folk-rock torch song "Lady Lake Michigan." *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 donation. 764–3162.*

Matt Watroba & Robert Jones: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Double bill. Watroba, host of WDET's *Folks like Us,* sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads, accompanying himself on guitar. The host of WDET's *Blues from the Lowlands,* Jones draws on Delta, Texas, Chicago, and other blues traditions. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Noism08: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 63.* Japanese dancer-choreographer **Jo Kanamori,** a leader of the current contemporary Japanese dance scene, directs his company, whose name means "no

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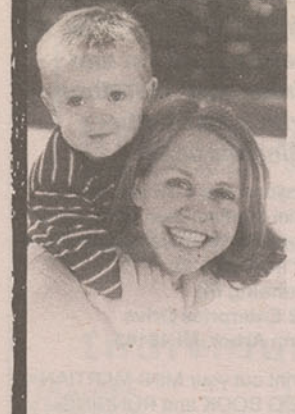

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restrictions," in ***NINA materialize sacrifice,*** a full-evening work that blends contemporary dance with ballet. Set to a score by Vietnamese-French composer Ton That An, Part 1 of the work was called by a *New York Times* critic "a stark vision of the sexes in which five women portraying female mannequins are manipulated by sinister men in dark suits." *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $16–$40 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Before It Hits Home": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 8 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Two Candles Burning": U-M School of Music.** See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Dancing at Lughnasa": Concordia University. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"As You Like It": U-M Theatre Department. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kira Soltonavich: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Rolando Matias and His Afro-Rican Ensemble: The Firefly Club. This heralded 10-piece New York City-based ensemble plays a high-powered mix of salsa and other Caribbean idioms mixed with jazz, funk, soul, and old-time swing. Led by percussionist Matias, the group also includes pianist Dean Marcellana, tenor saxophonist Eddie Bayard, saxophonist and clarinetist Malcolm Alvarez, trumpeter Mario Abney, trombonist and flutist Michael Goecke, bassist Eddie Brookshire, steel drum player Othello Molineaux, and percussionists Bobby Matos and Baba Charles Miller. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Tickets $12 in advance and at the door. 665–9090.*

FILMS

Brancaleone Bros./Michigan Theater Foundation. "A Detroit Thing" (Anthony & Nicholas Brancaleone, 2007). Documentary about the lives of several luminaries of the contemporary Detroit rock scene set against the background of a city in decline. Kid Rock, the Howling Diablos, Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise, Queen Bee, P.S. I Love You, Stun Gun, the Twistin' Tarantulas, Isabella Starfudge, the Trash Brats, Ebeling Hughes, Cobra Youth, Medusa Cyclone. $10. 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Persepolis"** (Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, 2007). *February 15–21.* Visually breathtaking, darkly observant and witty animated film about a rebellious girl's childhood in 1980s Tehran. Based on codirector Satrapi's autobiographical graphic novels. French, subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Oscar Animated Shorts"** (various directors & years). *February 15–21.* A feature-length program of animated short films. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Oscar Live Action Shorts"** (various directors & years). *February 15–21.* A feature-length program of live action short films. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **U-M Campus Chapel. "The Philadelphia Story"** (George Cukor, 1940). Brilliant, rapid-fire comedy about an independent society girl wistful for real romance. Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, James Stewart. FREE. 668–7421. Campus Chapel Center for Faith and Scholarship (1236 Washtenaw Ct.), 8 p.m.

16 SATURDAY

38th Annual Show: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. *February 16 & 17.* The Midwest's largest model railroad flea market draws model railroaders, collectors, and train buffs from around the country and Canada to display, trade, and sell model railroad equipment and memorabilia on over 400 vendor tables. Also, display of model train operating layouts. Food available. Proceeds used to restore and maintain Dexter's railroad depot. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Feb. 16) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Feb. 17), Saline Middle School gymnasium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. $6 (kids under 10 with adult, free). 426–0829.*

22nd Annual Winter Fleece Fair: Spinners' Flock. Show and sale of supplies and equipment for handspinners, knitters, weavers, felters, and other fiber crafters. Michigan-grown fibers, including wool, mohair, angora, llama, and alpaca. Handspun yarns and finished goods and new and used spinning wheels. Fiber craft demos throughout the day. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Beach Middle School, 445 Mayer, Chelsea. Free admission. Wheelchair accessible. 747–8112, 769–1657.*

★**"Salem Witch Trials": Daughters of the American Revolution.** Talk by DAR member Judy Williston. All invited. *11 a.m., location TBA. Free. 475–9701, 971–5842.*

★**"Ann Arbor Kids Cook: Snickerdoodles": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 (accompanied by an adult) invited to learn how to bake this classic cookie. *Noon–4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Made in Michigan": Whole Foods Market.** A chance to sample tidbits and products from around Michigan. *1–5 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

Chili Cook-Off: Manchester Men's Club. At least 25 local amateur cooks regularly compete in this spicy-chili fest. Samples available after the judging. Beverages available. Also, beginning at 4 p.m., DJ-hosted music by request. *1–9 p.m., Manchester Legion Hall, 203 Adrian St. (south of Main), Manchester. $3 admission, small charge TBA per sample. 428–9166.*

"Junie B. Jones": Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City–based children's theater troupe (see 3 Sunday *Max and Ruby* listing) returns to the Michigan Theater to present a lavishly staged production of its 2007 musical based on Barbara Park's stories about the adventures of a precocious kindergartner. In this play, Junie is finally graduating from kindergarten and preparing to cope with the challenges of 1st grade. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $14 (MTF members, $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Glacial Geology of Waterloo": Waterloo Recreation Area.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh explains how the glaciers shaped the Waterloo Recreation Area. *2–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**"Global Climate Change: What It Means for Orchid Conservation": Ann Arbor Orchid Society.** Talk by University of California biology professor Harold Koopowitz. Followed by orchid show-and-tell. Silent auction, sale, and raffle of orchids. Beginners can bring a problem plant. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–0756.*

★**"Cimbaloms in the Carpathians: Moravian Music, Central European Musical Instrument": U-M School of Music Stearns Lecture.** Talk by U-M grad student Jessie Johnston. *2 p.m., 506 Burton Memorial Tower. Free. 764–0594.*

"Along the Tracks: Michigan and the Underground Railroad": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**Peniel Guerrier: U-M Dance Department.** Performance by this artistic director of the Tamboula D'Haiti (Port-au-Prince) folk dance company, a master of traditional Haitian, West African, and Brazilian dance styles. *4 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–5460.*

"Disney's Beauty and the Beast": Burns Park Players 25th Annual Production. See 8 Friday. 4 p.m.

Annual Ham Dinner: Dixboro United Methodist Church. Juicy slabs of ham and side dishes that include scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, applesauce, trimmings, rolls, and beverages served buffet style. Proceeds benefit the church. Takeout available. *5–7 p.m., DUMC, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). $8 (kids ages 5–10, $5; kids age 4 & younger, $1). Reservations requested. 761–3813.*

★**"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. This month: ***Shugo Chara*** is about a shy girl who finds 3 magic eggs that give her unusual power, ***History's Strongest Disciple Kenichi*** concerns a wimpy student nicknamed "Weak Legs" who goes to a mysterious dojo for martial arts training, and ***Claymore*** is a dark fantasy series about shape-shifting human-eating monsters and those who kill them. Other series TBA. Raffle. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *5 p.m.–midnight, MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. umich.edu/~animania.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Minnesota. *6 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

"Kids Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids ages 5–10 invited to decorate their own chef's hat before helping to prepare dinner. Also,

Traverse City–area quartet Song of the Lakes performs everything from Great Lakes chanteys to acoustic rock at the Ark Feb. 19.

games and a screening of ***Ratatouille,*** Brad Bird and Jan Pinkava's acclaimed 2007 animated feature about a rat living with his family in the attic of a French country home who dreams of becoming a Parisian chef. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $24 (members, $20), $22 (members, $18) for each additional sibling. Reservations required. 971–0990.*

"Owl Prowl": Leslie Science and Nature Center. Leslie Science and Nature Center staff members present a program that includes hikes through Black Pond Woods and presentations with live owls to learn how ears, eyes, and feathers help owls survive in the night. *7–9 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 (family, $25). 997–1553.*

★**"The Lost Magic of the Shanghai Art Studios": U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Screening of Marie-Claire Quiquemelle and Julien Gaurichon's film about the internationally influential art studios that were virtually shut down by the Red Guard in the 60s. *7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium A. Free. 764–6308.*

★**"Short Play Series": U-M Basement Arts.** See 14 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"7th Annual Dance on Camera Festival": U-M Dance Department.** *February 16 & 17 (different locations).* Screening of a video of a juried selection of videodance works featured in the recent 36th Annual Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center in New York. Videodance is a hybrid art form that combines the dynamics of dance and the moving body with film/video editing and direction, animation, and computer technology. This year's compilation is highlighted by UK choreographer Isabel Rocamora's *Horizon of Exile,* a duo, set to a haunting Jivan Gasparyan score, that portrays the journey of 2 women moving, as though released from consciousness or gravity, across timeless desert landscapes on a journey that's punctuated by the voices of Iraqi exiles. Also, Spanish choreographer Aitor Echeverria's visionary *Aprop,* Danish choreographer Lene Boel's *Lifeforce #1,* Australian choreographer Suzon Fuks's *Fragmentation,* and American choreographers Phil Harder, Roseanne Chamecki, and Andrea Lerner's *Flying. 7–9 p.m., Palmer Commons Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 647–2288.*

"All Night Strut": EMU Theater Department. See 8 Friday. 7 p.m.

"21st Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark. See 15 Friday. Tonight's headliner is **Ed Stivender,** a Philadelphia-born actor, banjo player, juggler, theologian, teacher, and storyteller who's been called a "Catholic Garrison Keillor." Opening acts are **Lyn Ford,** a Columbus, Ohio, storyteller with a repertoire of stories from various African American traditions, and **LaRon Williams,** a popular veteran local storyteller who specializes in African and African American stories presented in a wide range of dialects, gestures, and facial expressions to conjure all sorts of human, animal, and supernatural characters. The early show is a **family concert** with 3 or 4 storytellers from the Friday and Saturday evening shows. 1 & 7:30 p.m.

"Heart of the Lion Valentine's Dinner Dance": Ann Arbor Evening Lions Club. Steak, chicken, or vegetarian dinner, followed at 9 p.m. by dancing to late-30s swing and 40s R&B by the **II-V-I Orchestra,** a veteran local big band led by saxophonist David Swain. Cash bar. Silent auction of donated goods and services. Proceeds benefit the Lions Club, a service organization that primarily helps the visually impaired. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Country Club, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. $50. Reservations recommended. 741–4497.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner, Peter Baker, and Martha Vander Kolk call to music by Phil Chen and friends. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Free lesson at 7:30 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 3–6 p.m. by a free jam for all musicians. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 665–8863.*

"Michigan A Cappella Charity Concert": Michigan A Cappella Council. Several U-M a cappella groups perform a variety of lively pop and R&B songs. Proceeds benefit Alternative Spring Break and Dance Marathon. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

★**"El Bajon in Mexico": U-M School of Music.** U-M bassoon professor **Jeffrey Lyman** is joined by several music faculty colleagues and music students for a program of solo and chamber music by Mexican composers, including Eugenio Toussaint's swinging arrangement of Perez Prado mambos and works by Arturo Marquez, Enrique Gonzalez-Medina, Gabriela Ortiz, and Ramon Montes de Oca. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Italian Baroque Music for Violin & Harpsichord": Academy of Early Music. U-M harpsichord professor **Edward Parmentier** and U-M violin instructor **Lara Hall** perform sonatas by Italian composers Corelli, Fontana, Castello, and Veracini, along with, for contrast, Bach's Sonata in G. Hall performs on a 1759 violin on loan from the Stearns Collection. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $15 (seniors & Academy of Early music members, $12; students, $5) at the door only. 665–5758.*

"Chemical Traces: A Unabomber Love Story": Dreamland Theater. *February 16 & 23.* This original marionette musical by puppeteer Naia Venturi and writer-composer Jess Rowland is a delightfully acidic yet sweetly sentimental comedy about love in the modern world. The action concerns the triad of Bob, an up-and-coming unabomber, the scheming has-been unabomber Renaldo, and the pert yet disgruntled postal employee Emily. Features a guest appearance by a startlingly lifelike version of Ted Koppel's hair. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

Ahmad Jamal: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 67.* Known for his spare, light style, this renowned jazz pianist whom Miles Davis called his main influence celebrated his 77th birthday last summer. In his concert appearances and dozens of recordings, from the recently reissued 1959 recording *Ahmad Jamal at the Penthouse* and *Modern Jazz Archive* to a 2006 collaboration with the legendary jazz pianist McCoy Tyner, Jamal has blended a consistent elegance with an originality that subtly subverts jazz conventions. NPR jazz reviewer Loren Schoenberg calls him a "master musical architect" and "one of our great jazz poet laureates." With bassist James Cammack and drummer Idris Muhammad. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$42 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**"Two Candles Burning": U-M School of Music.** See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Before It Hits Home": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 8 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Angels in America": Blackbird Theater. See 9 Saturday. Tonight: "Perestroika." 8 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Dancing at Lughnasa": Concordia University. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"As You Like It": U-M Theatre Department. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kira Soltonavich: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Persepolis" (Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, 2007). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Animated Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Live Action Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

17 SUNDAY

★**"A Heritage Denied": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Retired local social worker Haskell Rothstein discusses the unpublished memoir of his late wife, Pioneer High School English teacher Margaret Rothstein. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

★**Sunday Schmooze: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Local sculptor **Norma Penchansky-Glasser** discusses her work, including her use of the lost-wax process to cast it in bronze. Discussion follows. Coffee, snack. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Ohio State. *1 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**"Winter Walkabout": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy/Superior Land Conservancy.** All invited for refreshments and socializing, followed at 2 p.m. by a leisurely 1½-mile walk in the nearby Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. Dress for the weather. *1:15 p.m., Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect at Cherry Hill, Superior Twp. Free. 763–1078.*

★**"Ann Arbor Buildings and Architecture": Washtenaw County Historical Society.** Talk by local architect Anita Toews. Refreshments. *2–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. Free. 662–9092.*

★**Enlightened Minds Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Elizabeth Gilbert's acclaimed self-searching travelogue ***Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia.*** *2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"Masks of China: Lions, Dragons, and Painted Faces": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M Center for Chinese Studies staff members offer hands-on introduction to several Chinese cultural traditions from New Year lion and dragon dances to the painted faces of Chinese opera. Come prepared to have your face painted and to paint others. In conjunction with 2008 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads (see 10 Sunday listing). *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman and David Park Williams and music by David West, Donna Baird, and Mark Williams. Also, party games. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $6 (family, $12). 769–1052.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"As You Like It": U-M Theatre Department. See 14 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Dancing at Lughnasa": Concordia University. See 14 Thursday. 2:30 p.m.

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 14 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"For the Bible Tells Me So": Oasis Episcopal Ministry. Screening of Daniel Karslake's 2007 documentary about the intersection between religion and homosexuality in the U.S. *3 & 6 p.m., Michigan Theater. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 846–3578, 668–TIME.*

Measure for Measure. Steven Lorenz directs this acclaimed local men's chorus whose repertoire ranges from spirituals and hymns to traditional American folk songs and patriotic songs. A benefit for Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. *3 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Saline, 1200 N. Ann Arbor St. Donation. 649–SONG.*

★**"Frosty Life: Surviving the Poles": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 (accompanied by an adult) invited to learn about the animals that live at the poles and what they're doing there. *Note:* This program is also offered on February 20 at the Ann Arbor District Library Pittsfield Branch (4:30–5:30 p.m.) and on Feb-

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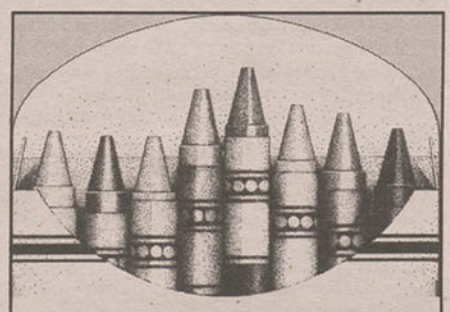

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17 SUNDAY *continued*

ruary 23 at the Malletts Creek (10–11 a.m.) and Northeast (2–3 p.m.) branches. *3:30–4:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478, 327–4200.*

"The History of Jack and the Bean-Stalk": Dreamland Theater. See 10 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**"Traditional Swedish Foodways": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** Talk by local culinary historian Kathleen Timberlake. *4–6 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. Free. 662–8661.*

"Beethoven Sonatas": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M violin professor **Aaron Berofsky** and piano professor **Phillip Bush** perform a program of Beethoven sonatas. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Facets of Love": Arbor Opera Theater. Members of this polished local opera company perform favorite love songs. Pastries, desserts, and beverages included. *4 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Tickets $25 at the door only. 332–9063.*

★**"Sex and Torah": Hillel.** Talk by Adat Shalom Synagogue (Farmington Hills) rabbi Rachel Shere. For women only. Dinner provided. *6 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill. Free. 769–0500.*

"Temple of Song: Ancient Hebrew Medicine for the Modern Seeker": Temple. Temple is Danya Uriel and Eyal Rivlin, a Boulder, Colorado, duo who blend Hebrew and English chants drawing on the repetitive power of ancient sacred phrases to create inner and outer peace. *7 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $12 at the door only. 330–9338.*

★**"7th Annual Dance on Camera Festival": U-M Dance Department.** See 16 Saturday. *7–9 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Dance Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 647–2288.*

"Center Stage: Lights Up on Talent": Huron High School. This variety show features students from Huron and other area schools in individual and group performances of song, poetry, dance, music, and more. A fund-raiser for the Huron Theater Guild. *7–9:30 p.m., Huron High School Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. Tickets $5 at the door only. 994–2040.*

John Jorgenson Quintet: The Ark. Gypsy jazz standards and originals by this ensemble led by singer-guitarist Jorgenson, a founding member of the Desert Rose Band and the Hellecasters who's a recognized pioneer in the revival of the music of Django Reinhardt—Jorgenson even portrayed Reinhardt in the 2004 film *Head in the Clouds*. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**Faculty Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M violist **Yizhak Schotten** and harpsichordist **Edward Parmentier** perform 3 of Bach's sonatas for viola da gamba, and they are joined by Great Lakes String Quartet violist Megan Ferguson and a U-M music student ensemble for a performance of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto no. 6. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Yoav: The Blind Pig. Electronica- and hip-hop-inflected indie pop by this Israeli-born singer-songwriter who grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. His debut CD *Charmed & Strange* is a collection of darkly uplifting songs in an array of moods from the pensive eulogy "One By One" and the yearningly elegiac "Beautiful Lie" to the groove-laden "Yeah, the End" and a gorgeous, slowed-down cover of the Pixies' "Where Is My Mind?" *8:30–11:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. $10 at the door only. 996–8555.*

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 3 Sunday. Tonight: ***War*** (Phillip Atwell, 2007). Action thriller about an FBI agent obsessed with nailing a former CIA assassin who now works for the Japanese Yakuza. Jet Li, Jason Statham. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Persepolis"** (Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, 2007). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Animated Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Live Action Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

18 MONDAY

★**"Born Secret: A Social History of the Military-Industrial Complex": U-M International Institute Science, Technology, & Society Program.** Lecture by University of Pennsylvania history and sociology of science professor Susan Lindee. *4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 647–3766.*

★**"From the Farm to Your Fork: Why Local Food Can Make Us Healthier, Happier, and More Secure": Ann Arbor District Library/Slow Food Huron Valley.** Panel discussion with local farmers Annie Elder and Paul Bantle, Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young, dietitian Ruth Blackburn, and U-M ecology and evolutionary biology professor Catherine Badgley. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Karyna McGlynn: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Washtenaw Community College English teacher, a U-M creative writing grad student who has been a member of the Ann Arbor, Austin, and Seattle National Poetry Slam teams, reads from ***Scorpionica,*** her new collection of dark, playful, sometimes brutal, pseudoconfessional lyrical and descriptive poems that bind together with casual grace a range of discordant materials from a death by tetherball rope and the body of a missing teen that turns up in the family shed to potato salad, unheated waterbeds, and stolen margarita lip gloss. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

Adrian Lucas: First Presbyterian Church. This Worcester (England) Cathedral organist and choirmaster performs organ music by Mendelssohn, Bach, Messiaen, Sweelinck, and Tournemire. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Donation. 662–4466.*

★**"A Naturalist's Trip Through the Jordan Valley": Michigan Botanical Club.** Slide-illustrated talk by retired Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation naturalist **Matt Heumann.** Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass and table service). *7:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–5667.*

★**EMU Percussion Ensemble: EMU Music Department.** John Dorsey directs this music-student ensemble in a program of works in an eclectic mix of rhythms and instrumental timbres. The program concludes with a joint performance with the **Flint Institute of Music Percussion Ensemble,** which also performs a set on its own. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Ray Bonneville: The Ark. Blues and country-rock guitarist and harmonica player from Montreal known for his raspy, laid-back vocals. Tonight he showcases material from his forthcoming CD, *Goin' by Feel*. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Impact Dance. *February 18 & 19.* This 12-member all-female company of nondance majors presents an energetic, varied program of original dances in various idioms. Although the students aren't dance majors, Impact's quality of dance is quite high. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets (cost TBA) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Oscars Series. "Oliver!" (Carol Reed, 1968). Universally appealing, zesty adaptation of the stage musical based on the classic Dickens novel. Oliver Reed, Mark Lester. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **"Persepolis"** (Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, 2007). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Animated Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Live Action Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

19 TUESDAY

★**Richard Rubenfeld: EMU Art Department.** This EMU art professor discusses *Four Seasons* (see Galleries), the gallery's current exhibit of nature photographs by 12 EMU alumni. *5 p.m., University Art Gallery, Student Center, 900 Oakwood (between Washtenaw & N. Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–0465.*

★**"Oxygenate Your Body with Raw Foods": People's Food Co-op.** Michael Dwyer discusses the role of raw food in lowering cholesterol and blood pressure and maintaining normal blood sugar. Also, a lecture-demonstration on how to prepare pesto pasta, with taste samples. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** Readings by 2 local poets whose work is featured in the new anthology *Writers Reading at Sweetwaters,* **Kristin Stelter** and **Michael Moriarty.** Followed by an open-mike for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**"Stress and Fatigue": Nutritional Healing Center.** Talk by local chiropractor Mark Perlmutter. *7–8 p.m., Nutritional Healing Centers of Ann Arbor, 3610 W. Liberty. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★**"Clinical Nutritional Support for ADD/ADHD, Autism, and Seizures": Nutritional Healing Center.** Talk by local acupuncturist Mark Rojek. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★**"Mormyrids (Elephant-Nose Fishes)": U-M Aquarium Society.** U-M postdoc natural resources researcher Pete McIntyre discusses these fish whose brains are sometimes proportionately larger than our own. *7 p.m., Rackham Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 274–1722.*

★**"Dark Days": Neutral Zone.** An informal group discussion on homelessness is followed by a screening of ***Dark Days,*** Marc Singer's unforgettable 2000 documentary about a community of homeless squatters living in a lightless Amtrak tunnel far under Manhattan that they've outfitted with ramshackle plywood homes, dog pens, and cooking facilities. Singer lived underground with the community for 2 years to make the movie, and the community became his crew during filming. *7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. Free. 214–9995.*

★**"Other People's Skin": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talks by best-selling fiction writer (and U-M grad) **Elizabeth Atkins,** coauthor with film actor Billy Dee Williams of the romantic thriller *Twilight,* and *Detroit Free Press* columnist and former *All Things Considered* commentator **Desiree Cooper.** Both of them have their fiction included in *Other People's Skin,* a collection of 4 novellas that treat self-hatred caused by intraracial prejudice and the ongoing obsession with skin tone and hair color. The program concludes with remarks by psychologist Gail Parker and activist Lila Cabbil. In conjunction with Black History Month. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Green Remodeling: Improving Your Home and Saving the World on a Budget": Sierra Club.** Talk by WARM training center green programs manager Jacob Corvidae. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 615–0516.*

★**"An Armchair Journey Through Antarctica and the Antarctic Geologic Drilling Program": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Bach Elementary School 4th-grade teacher Robin Frisch-Gleason shares stories and photos of her experience this past fall, as part of the Antarctic Geologic Drilling Program to study the Antarctic's role in global climate change. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**Orpheus Singers: U-M School of Music.** Grad student Carole Ott conducts this music-student ensemble in Stravinsky's Mass and Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Song of the Lakes: The Ark. Veteran Traverse City-area quartet whose repertoire ranges from Great Lakes chanteys and traditional ballads to Celtic, Scandinavian, Brazilian, and acoustic rock music. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new DVD, *Song of the Lakes Live at Interlochen. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Impact Dance. See 18 Monday. 8 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Persepolis" (Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, 2007). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Animated Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Live Action Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **Temple Beth Emeth "Movie Tuesday." "Divan [The Couch]"** (Pearl Gluck, 2003). Documentary about the filmmaker's quest to track down a beautiful family heirloom, a turn-of-the-century couch considered holy because certain rabbis slept on it, which she finally finds at her great-grandfather's house in Hungary. FREE. 665–4744. TBE, 1–3 p.m.

20 WEDNESDAY

"The Morning Edition": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. This popular monthly program features a buffet breakfast and a series of 5-minute updates from local business and community leaders. Hosted by Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins. Speakers TBA. Video replays posted at annarborchamber.org. *7–8:45 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $30 (members, $25). Preregistration requested. 214–0104.*

★**"Missionizing Eurasia: The Global Networks of Ukrainian Evangelism": U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies.** Talk by Penn State history and religious studies professor Catherine Wanner. *Noon–1 p.m., 2609 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to join Lucia Skoman to discuss a book TBA. *12:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Why Botswana Is Africa's Ace of Diamonds": U-M Ford School of Public Policy.** Talk by Carleton College economics professor and president emeritus Stephen R. Lewis Jr., a former economic consultant to the Botswana government. *4–5:30 p.m., 1110 Weill Hall, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Tonight: fiction readings by U-M creative writing postgrad fellow **Greg Schutz** and U-M creative writing grad student **Tiana Kahakauwila.** 7–9:30 p.m.

"Sweet Myrtle and Bitter Honey: The Mediterranean Flavors of Sardinia": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Texas restaurateur and food writer **Efisio Farris** discusses and offers taste samples of some Sardinian recipes featured in his acclaimed cookbook. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door Kids Room (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 (if available) at the door. 663–3354.*

★**"Becoming American: The Chinese Experience": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of **"Gold Mountain Dreams,"** part 2 of a 3-part screening of this 2003 PBS documentary that began last month. Part 3 is shown in March. In conjunction with 2008 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads (see 10 Sunday listing). *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Sellout: The Politics of Racial Betrayal": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Harvard University law professor **Randall Kennedy,** author of the controversial best-seller *Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word,* reads from his new study of the effects of anxiety over being stigmatized as "sellouts" on the lives of African Americans. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Costuming": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Talk by Dexter vintage gown designer Helen Welford. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass; table service provided). *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 769–1052.*

★**"Audubon and His Influence on Wildlife Art": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Slide-illustrated talk by Ella Sharp Museum (Jackson) wildlife art curator Dean Adkins. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

John Berry: The Ark. Rare club appearance by this country-pop star, a singer with a big, commanding voice and a repertoire of alternately earnest and warmly sentimental songs about ordinary life's joys and sorrows. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Traumas of War": Michigan Peaceworks. Brigadier general Carol Ann Fausone gives a talk on mental health and substance abuse in the military. Also, panel discussions by local doctors on epidemiology and health and biology. *8:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Cost TBA. 761–5922.*

Nicole Atkins & the Sea: The Blind Pig. Pop-rock cabaret quintet from Brooklyn, New York, led by singer-songwriter Atkins. Opening acts TBA. *10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets $25 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, $30 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

FILMS

MTF. "Persepolis" (Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, 2007). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Animated Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Live Action Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

21 THURSDAY

★**Recital: Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** Performances by members of the AAPTG Repertoire Group. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 996–1344.*

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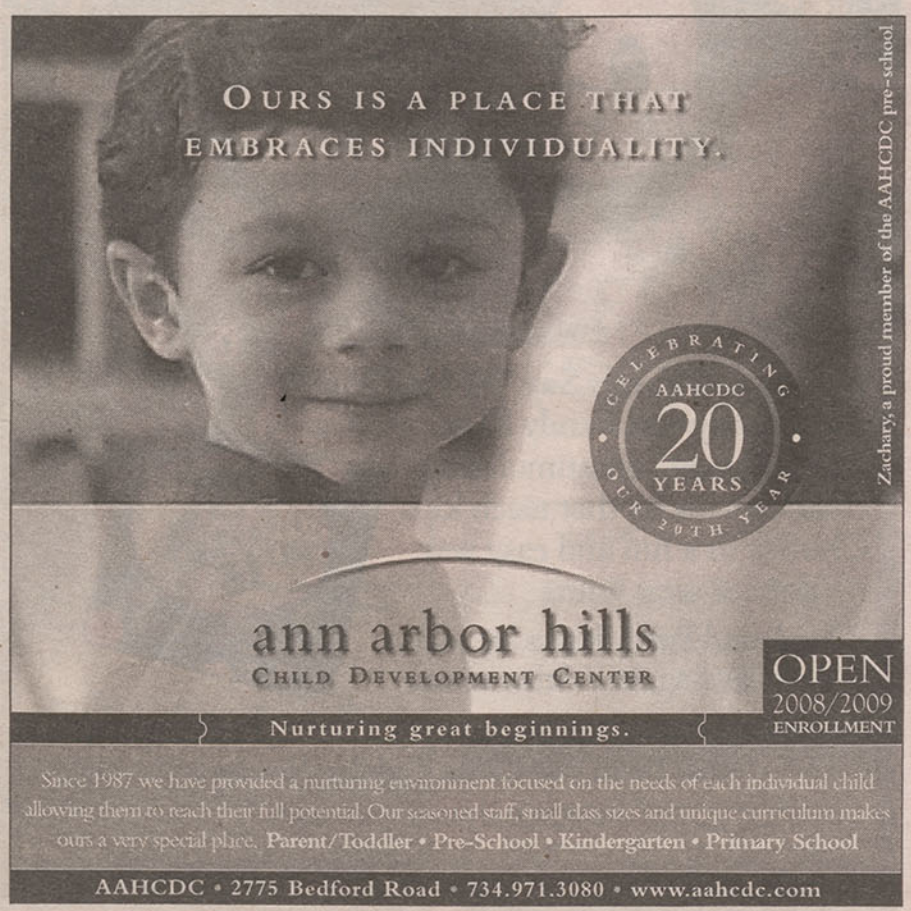
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21 THURSDAY *continued*

★"Dumplings and Such": International Neighbors. All women invited to introduce and bring taste samples of the type of dumpling eaten in the part of the world from which they come. International Neighbors is a 49-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 663–3989.*

★Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *2 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"Chinese Maps and Books": U-M Map Library. A chance to peruse maps, books, and other ephemera relating to China, in honor of the Chinese New Year. Refreshments. *4–7 p.m., Graduate Library Map Library (8th floor), 920 North University. Free. 764–0407.*

"Cocktails 101: Clover Club": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse bar manager discusses the art, science, and history of this cocktail made with gin, lime juice, raspberry syrup, bitters, and an egg white that was popular in the first half of the 20th century. *6 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $20. 663–FOOD.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Purdue. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

★"Herbal Allies for Menopause": People's Food Coop. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. Reservations requested. 994–4589.*

★"HIV in Our Washtenaw County": Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion with HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) CEO Jimena Loveluck, HARC prevention services director Leon Golson, and Michigan AIDS Fund Speakers Bureau member Selvie Hall. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"Whose Idea Was This? Museums, Replicas, and the Reproduction of Knowledge": U-M Museum Studies. Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology director Gwyneira Isaac discusses the Zuni attitude toward copies of artifacts as a means of honoring the original, as opposed to a Western tendency to regard copies as devalued versions of the original. *7 p.m., 5670 Haven Hall, 505 S. State St. Free. 936–6678.*

★"The Supreme Court and Its Impact on You": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Talk by award-winning National Public Radio legal affairs correspondent **Nina Totenberg.** *7 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Free. 764–9537.*

★Mary Jo Firth Gillett: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This award-winning Detroit poet reads from ***Soluble Fish,*** her debut collection of humorous, playful poems that take up a range of quotidian topics from teaching poetry to watching her father fillet a fish in order to explore boundaries, familial and love relationships, and other aspects of being human. "Gillett's juxtapositions delight the senses and intellect simultaneously, making a beeline for the heart of the matter through their vivid attentiveness to the materiality of everyday and not-so-everyday experience," says poet Phillis Levin. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"Orchestra Night": Ann Arbor Public Schools. This gala concert features over 700 student performers in orchestras from all 5 Ann Arbor middle schools, plus the Huron and Pioneer symphony orchestras. *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 994–2314.*

★"Moving Toward a More Sustainable Future: Sustainability in the Transportation System": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon. Panel discussion with Clean Energy Coalition executive director Sean Reed, city energy coordinator Dave Konkle, and Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce getDowntown program director Nancy Shore. Followed by discussion. *7:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757, 665–9160.*

★"The Huron River Archaeological Survey": Michigan Archaeological Society. Talk by EMU sociology, anthropology, and criminology professor Brad Ensor. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum Paleontology Lab, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 995–8806.*

★Brian Wood: Concordia University. Talk by this New York–based photographer, whose photographs and drawings are currently on display (see Galleries). *7:30 p.m., Concordia Student Center GalleryOne, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–4612.*

★History of Books and Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join this group discussion of Lucien Polastron's ***Books on Fire: The Destruction of Libraries Throughout History.*** Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas: The Ark. The duo of veteran Scottish fiddler Fraser and young American cellist Haas plays everything from achingly beautiful airs to wild and joyous dance pieces. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Doubt: A Parable": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thursday–Sunday, February 21–April 6.* John Seibert directs John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer- and Tony-winning drama about a mother superior who must decide whether to trust her instincts when she suspects the school priest of having sexual relations with a student or to believe his protests of innocence. Stars Jan Radcliff, Jon Bennett, Molly Thomas, Tammie Harris. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Feb. 21), $20 (Feb. 22, 24, & 28), and $28 (Feb. 23). Feb. 29 opening night tickets: $42 includes reception. After Feb. 29: $30 (Thurs. & Sat. matinee), $35 (Fri. & Sun.), and $42 (Sat. eve.). $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over, $10 discounts available (except Sat. eve.) for students. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets & $10 tickets for age 16 & under available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Jef Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *February 21–23.* This Detroit comic is known for a fast-paced, good-natured show that mixes song parodies with lots of raunchy one-liners, jokes, and jabs at his audience. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 (Thurs.) & $8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Persepolis" (Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, 2007). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Animated Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Oscar Live Action Shorts"** (various directors & years). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

22 FRIDAY

★"Putting Teeth into Literacy: Learning How to Care for Your Smile and Enjoy Tales about Teeth": Ann Arbor District Library "Sunday Edition." All kids from babies through 5th-graders (accompanied by an adult) invited to drop in during the day to learn about dental care from local experts and hear some funny and fascinating tales about teeth. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4560.*

★Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists. See 8 Friday. Today: EMU organ students. Noon.

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids ages 2–10 can enjoy dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $40 (members, $30). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

★"Heartburn and Digestive Problems": Nutritional Healing Center. Local chiropractor Shannon Dicks discusses digestive difficulties. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *February 22, 23, & 29.* This Ann Arbor–based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September-March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21), American college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Marquette Rangers** of the North American Hockey League *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $12 (students & children, $6). 327–9251.*

Houghton College Choir: First Presbyterian Church. Brandon Johnson conducts this highly regarded college choir from a Wesleyan college in New York's Genesee Valley in a program of sacred music

TBA. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Donation. 662–4466.*

★Hot Club of Detroit: Lohr Road Borders. Swinging, agile, Django Reinhardt–influenced jazz by this Detroit ensemble. Part of the grand opening celebration for this new Borders. *8 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

4th Friday Advanced Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Dave Sebolt calls contras to music by the Golden Griffon Stringtet. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $8. 747–8860.*

RFD Boys: The Ark. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. Proceeds benefit the Leslie Science Center, a city parks facility situated on 50 acres of fields, woods, and prairie that provides natural science and environmental education opportunities for kids and their families. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. $11 (students, seniors, & members, $10) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"Mark Braun's Annual Birthday Bounce": Great Lakes Performing Artists Associates. *February 22 & 23.* A popular tradition in which Ann Arbor's world-renowned Flint-born blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun celebrates his birthday month. An exuberant, powerful performer whose repertoire includes both boogie-woogie and blues classics and originals in the same mold, Mr. B has performed and recorded with world-class artists such as the late drummer J. C. Heard and Detroit percussionist Roy Brooks. His latest CD is *Mr. B Live at Kerrytown Concert House*. Mr. B performs solo tonight and is accompanied tomorrow night by drummer Pete Siers and bassist Kurt Krahnke. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15, $20, & $30. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Doubt: A Parable": Performance Network Professional Season. See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jef Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

M-Flicks. "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" (Milos Forman, 1975). When a feisty rebel faking mental illness in order to get off a prison work detail enters a mental hospital, he galvanizes the beaten-down residents. Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher. FREE. 763–1107. Nat. Sci. Auditorium, 8 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

23 SATURDAY

★Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998–9540.*

★"Contemporary Christian Music": American Guild of Organists. All invited to join or observe local musicians as they discuss and demonstrate the ways they use contemporary Christian music in their performances. *9 a.m.–noon, First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662–4466.*

★"Muffins, Milk, and Storytime": Lohr Road Borders. Martin Brennan reads ***Three Lessons for Astair the Bear,*** his children's book about a lovable but stubborn bear. Milk and muffins available. *9:30 a.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★"Shake It Up Stories": Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program featuring stories with dancing for kids from babies through 5th-graders. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★Jane O'Connor: Lohr Road Borders. This children's book author reads from ***Fancy Nancy: Bonjour Butterfly,*** her children's book about a girl waiting for a birthday party who's told she'll have to go to her grandparents' anniversary party instead. *11 a.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

"Fable-vicious": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Chelsea Sadler directs Kimberly Yost and Patrick Farrell's musical adaptation and modernization of several classic Aesop stories, including "The Tortoise & the Hare," "The Ant & the Grasshopper," "The Fox & the Grapes," "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," and more. Cast: Scott Longpre, Mori Richner, Jeremy Salvatori, Tiffany Jones. Also, an Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra instrument petting zoo with child-sized violins and violas. Milk & cookies. For prekindergartners through 5th-graders. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★Dora the Explorer: Lohr Road Borders. *February 23 & 24.* A Border's staff member TBA leads a storytime and coloring session. *Noon (Feb. 23) & 12:30 p.m. (Feb. 24), Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Preservation Division. All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Also, city staffers lead a short nature walk at the end of each workday. Wear comfortable pants and closed-toe shoes. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. Today: a trip to **Mary Beth Doyle Park** (formerly Brown Park) to help cut shrubs around the entrance. *1–4 p.m., Mary Beth Doyle Park (meet in the parking lot at the Packard Rd. entrance between Stone School Rd. and Platt Rd.). Free. 996–3266.*

★"Customer Appreciation Day": Whole Foods Market. A chance to sample seemingly millions of tidbits. Also, recipes. *1–5 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

★"The Big Ass Book of Crafts": Lohr Road Borders. TLC cable channel *While You Were Out* designer **Mark Montano** discusses his entertaining, informative compendium of 150 fun, easy, and inventive crafts. Also, Montano does a craft demo. Signing. *2 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

"Animal Magic": Waterloo Natural History Association. Animal rescuer and magician Mark Rosenthal presents an educational program blending magic with a variety of exotic animals from his sanctuary. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5). Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

4th Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. A caller TBA calls contras to music by Dr. Grangelove. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (students, $5). 769–1052.*

"Buhrrr Fest": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Public skating, a bonfire with all the ingredients to make s'mores (a confection of graham crackers, chocolate bars, and marshmallows), door prizes, and more. Special events include a figure skating exhibition, an ice cream eating contest, and broomball, a variant of ice hockey (helmets required, some provided). *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). Skate rentals ($3) available. 971–3228.*

★"Stress Control": Nutritional Healing Center. Talk by local stress response coach William Tehoy. *2–2:45 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★Norma Gentile: Nicola's Books. This local soprano and "sound shaman" previews songs from her new album, *Songs of Spirit. 4–5 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Chip St. Clair: Lohr Road Borders. This Michigan-born writer reads from ***The Butterfly Garden,*** his memoir about an unhappy childhood as the son of a man he later learned was one of Michigan's most wanted criminals. *4 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

Annual Fund-Raising Banquet: Washtenaw County Pheasants Forever. A casual buffet dinner with live and silent auctions of wildlife paintings, carvings, hunting trips, guns, and other goods. Also, raffles, door prizes, games, sale of country art and wood carvings, and more. Proceeds benefit the group's efforts to establish and preserve local wildlife habitats for the ring-necked pheasant. *5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (at Pleasant Lake Rd.). Cost TBA, includes WCPF membership fee. Reservations required. 429–2334.*

"Ann Arbor Skatepark Benefit Show": Ann Arbor Skatepark Action Committee. *All ages admitted.* With the local punk-rock band **Hairy Drain Babies,** the local teen punk band **Guilty Bystanders,** the local hardcore band **Monsters or Mayhem,** and the Ypsilanti hardcore band **Minus 9.** *5–8 p.m., Elbow Room, 6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti. $8 at the door only. 483–6374.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Minnesota. *Note:* This game may be played on February 24. *Time TBA, Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 22 Friday. Today: **Team USA**

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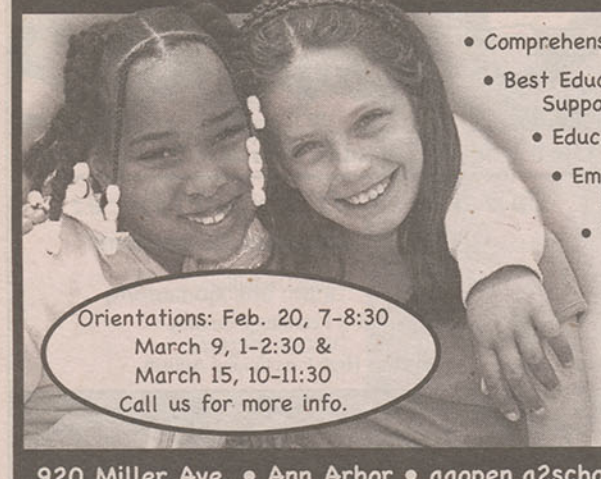

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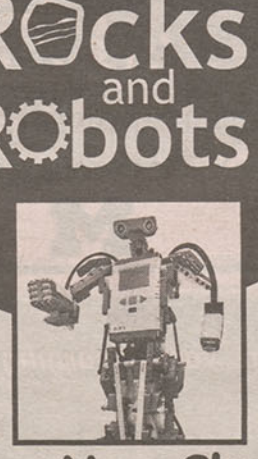

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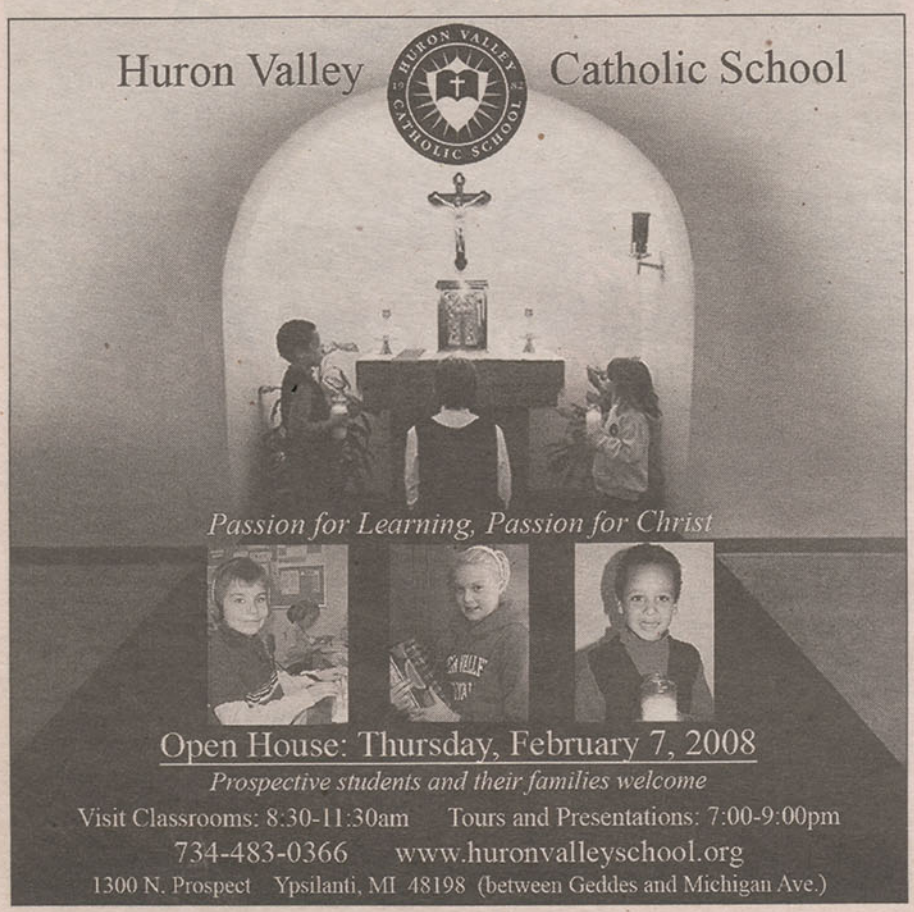

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23 SATURDAY *continued*

Under-17 vs. Marquette Rangers of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

★"Journey into the Heart of Meditation": Tsogyelgar Dharma Center. *February 23 & 24.* Traktung Yeshe Dorje leads a silent sitting. Followed by discussion. *7:30–9 p.m. (Feb. 23) & 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (Feb. 24), Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free. 663–3842.*

4th Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Kate Power calls to music by Dr. Grangelove. No partner needed. All dances taught. Wear cool, casual shoes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded at 7:40 p.m. by beginning lessons. Also, workshops ($10) for square dance callers (1–3 p.m.) and musicians (5–6:30 p.m.). Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (AACTMAD members $8, students $5). 730–6919.*

Old-Fashioned Barn Dance: Cobblestone Farm Association. David Park Williams calls traditional 19th-century dances to period music by the trio of fiddler Donna Baird, pianist David West, and banjoist, guitarist, and bassist Mark Williams. Sandwiches & nonalcoholic beverages served at 10 p.m. The Cobblestone Farmhouse is open for tours, 5–8 p.m. *8–11:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $7 at the door only. 994–2928.*

Nutshell: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Traditional Irish music infused with influences from various other musical traditions by this local trio known for its rich and varied instrumental textures and stirring solo and harmony vocals. Instrumentation includes flute, whistle, bodhran, guitar, percussion, and sitar. *8 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $10 at the door only. 665–0409.*

James Blunt: Live Nation. English pop-rock singer-songwriter best known for his chart-topping 2006 single "You're Beautiful." Opening act is pop singer-songwriter and pianist **Sara Bareilles.** *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Sold out. 668–8397.*

"Stomping at the Ark": The Ark. Local saxophonist and clarinetist Vincent York leads **Jazzistry,** his educational jazz history ensemble, in a program of swing era hits by the likes of Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald with the Chick Webb Orchestra, and Louis Jordan. With trumpeter Dwight Adams, saxophonist and clarinetist Ernie Rogers, trombonist Chris Smith, guitarist Ronald English, pianist Alma Smith, bassist John Dana, and bassist Dwight Adams. A benefit for Jazzistry. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $35 (students, $20; $75 includes reserved seating and an afterglow reception) in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Mark Braun's Annual Birthday Bounce": Great Lakes Performing Artists Associates. See 22 Friday. 8 p.m.

Tierney Sutton: The Firefly Club. This acclaimed L.A.-based jazz singer is known for her refined elegance and taut lyricism. Her repertoire ranges from standards to show tunes and even country songs. She is accompanied by her piano trio. *8 & 10 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 665–9090.*

"Chemical Traces: A Unabomber Love Story": Dreamland Theater. See 16 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Doubt: A Parable": Performance Network Professional Season. See 21 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jef Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

24 SUNDAY

★"World War II Front Line Nurse": Barnes & Noble. Ann Arborite **Mildred McGregor** is on hand to sign copies of her memoir. *10 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 763–1618.*

"Breakfast with Kabbalah": Chabad House. All invited to chat over breakfast with Chabad House rabbi Aharon Goldstein about kabbalah, Jewish mysticism, and other topics. *10:30 a.m., Chabad House, 715 Hill. $5 donation. 995–3276, 649–1116.*

★"Go!": Ann Arbor District Library. *February 24 & 27 (different branch locations).* Everyone from kindergartners to adults invited to test their skills at this ancient Chinese board game against Ann Arbor Go Club members. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (Feb. 24), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William, & AADL Northeast Branch (Feb. 27), Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–8301, 327–4200.*

★"Breaking Through Your Brick Walls": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by Farmington Hills genealogist Dan Fantore. Followed by discussion. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★"Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire": Lohr Road Borders. National award-winning L.A. teacher **Rafe Esquith,** whom the *New York Times* calls "a genius and a saint," reads from his guide to good teaching in difficult circumstances. *2 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★U-M Wrestling vs. MSU. *2 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

★Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild. All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"Friends in Song II": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in a family concert featuring the popular local acoustic duo **Gemini.** Twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits perform music from their *Parents Choice* award-winning CD *The Orchestra Is Here to Play* and other arrangements of their songs for full orchestra to offer young listeners an accessible way to venture into the world of classical music while enjoying folk songs written just for kids, all performed with a boisterous sense of fun on more than a dozen instruments. The program concludes with a performance of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf,* with narration by the Slomovits brothers. *2 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium. 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (seniors & kids under 12, $5; family of 4 or more, $25) in advance and at the door. 507–1451.*

"Family Fun Day": Washtenaw County 4-H. Families invited for games, dancing, and refreshments. *2–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 per family. 997–1678.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Doubt: A Parable": Performance Network Professional Season. See 21 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★"Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue": Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this volunteer ensemble in a varied program that includes the "Wedding March" from Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* the Finale to Dvorak's *New World Symphony,* the Polka from Smetana's *The Bartered Bride,* EMU music professor Scott Boerma's *Bora Bora,* Sousa's rarely performed "Atlantic City Pageant March," and selections from the musicals *My Fair Lady* and *Beauty and the Beast. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 426–2734, 355–0725.*

★Society for Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders. All invited to join a discussion of ***My Sister's Keeper,*** Jodi Picoult's novel about a family who pressures an increasingly resentful sister to donate bodily organs to a severely ill sibling. *6–8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

The Ragbirds: The Ark. Inventive local country-rock band, fronted by singer-songwriter Erin Zindle, whose music mixes in elements of world-music, groove rock, and edgy pop, using a diverse mix of instruments, including violin, mandolin, banjo, accordion, acoustic guitar, and percussion elements from around the world, as well as the old-fashioned drumkit. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 (students with ID, $10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Herb David Guitar Studio, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Melange. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner." See 3 Sunday. Tonight: ***Green Street Hooligans*** (Lexi Alexander, 2005). Drama about English soccer hooliganism. Elijah Wood, Charlie Hunnam, Claire Forlani. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song"** (Jim Brown, 2007). Vibrant, inspiring documentary about the legendary 88-year-old folk singer. Cameos by Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Joan Baez, and others. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

25 MONDAY

★"Pokemoncon": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 4 & 5 invited to watch anime episodes

of Pokemon. Bring your Nintendo DS for some impromptu battles after the screening. Pokemon video games provided, or you can bring your own. *1–3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

"The History of Jack and the Bean-Stalk": Dreamland Theater. See 10 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**"Piggy Banks and Beyond": Ann Arbor District Library.** Financial advisor Amy Doyle offers suggestions for some things kids in grades 2–5 can do to make their money grow. *4–5 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Anne Easter Smith: Nicola's Books.** This historical novelist reads from *Daughter of York,* her new novel about the daughter of Richard III. Also, signing. Followed by an informal dinner (pay for your own food) with Smith at the Quarter Bistro (reservations required at 662–0600). Smith also appears at the Lohr Road Borders on February 23 at 7 p.m. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Ken Waldman: The Ark. A Philadelphia native who moved to Alaska 22 years ago, Waldman combines Appalachian-style fiddle tunes with original poems about living in Alaska. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Herb David Guitar Studio, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Matt Costa: The Blind Pig. Indie pop-rock quintet led by Costa, a singer-songwriter from Huntington, California. The band's new CD, *Unfamiliar Faces,* includes the iTunes hit "Mr. Pitiful." Opening act is **Jonathan Rice,** a roots-oriented pop-rock band led by L.A. singer-songwriter Rice. *8:30–11:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. $14 at the door only. 996–8555.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Oscars Series. "Rain Man" (Barry Levinson, 1988). When a self-absorbed luxury car dealer returns home for his father's funeral, he discovers not only that he's been cut out of the will but that he has an autistic older brother. Tom Cruise, Dustin Hoffman. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

26 TUESDAY

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Everyone from kindergartners to adults invited to play chess. Chess sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Winter Season Craft": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids from preschoolers through 3rd-graders invited to do an art project celebrating winter. *2–4 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

"History of Hot Chocolate and Cocoa": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of a variety of delicious hot chocolate drinks, from ancient recipes to new concoctions from France, Spain, and elsewhere. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

"The Classics and the Cutting Edge in Blends Today": Vinology. Vinology staff discuss blended wines and offer 6–8 taste samples of blended wines from around the world. Cheese refreshments included. Includes take-home bottle of wine. *7–9 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main St. $40. Reservations required. 222–0941.*

★**"Heart Health Without Drugs": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local nutritionist Judy Stone. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

"Cinema Slam": Michigan Theater Foundation. A lively, entertaining 2-hour smorgasbord of films made by Ann Arborites, from VHS home movies to 35 mm films by independent filmmakers. All invited to submit a film in VHS, DVD, or Beta format. "It's not a film till someone sees it!" Followed by an informal reception with the filmmakers at Espresso Royale on State Street. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 646–9364.*

★**"The Power of the Possible": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon.** California-based spiritual teacher **Auriela McCarthy** reads from her new book, a compilation of stories about the way people find hope and transcendence in difficult times. Followed by discussion. Signing. *7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757, 665–9160.*

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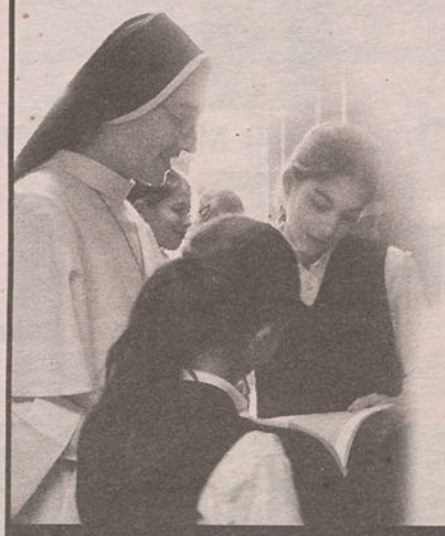

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26 TUESDAY *continued*

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. No jeans. *8–10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $17 (includes dinner) in advance only. (517) 787–6367, (517) 592–5771.*

★Chris Bathgate: The Ark "Take a Chance Tuesdays." Local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. Part of a monthly series of free concerts showcasing lesser-known artists on the roster of the prestigious local management agency Fleming Artists. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 761–1451.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Northwestern. *9 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Cinema Slam." See Events listing above. Mich., 7 p.m. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

27 WEDNESDAY

★"All Season Salads": Whole Foods Market. Talk and demonstration by Whole Foods staff member Susan Bellinson. *Noon–1:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★"Puppet Potpourri": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–3 invited to make a handmade puppet and then use it or a puppet from the AADL collection to put on a show for their friends. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 22 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Traverse City North Stars** of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

★Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club. All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their gadgets and toys. Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars available for kids to use. *7–9 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Stadium just south of Jackson). Free. 332–1000.*

"Fitness Talks": Washtenaw Community College Health and Fitness Center. *February 27 & 28.* Today: Ecology Center scientist Hans Posselt discusses **"Meditation: Opening the Mind to Your Creative Self."** Also this month: health educator Sandra Baumann on **"Rebuild Your Bones Naturally"** (February 28). *7–9 p.m., WCC Health and Fitness Center, 4833 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (members, free). 973–3543.*

★"Parasites in You": Nutritional Healing Center. Local chiropractor Darren Schmidt discusses some of the more than 1,000 parasites that can affect people, and how to eliminate them. Also, local chiropractor Shannon Dicks discusses the same topic at the Nutritional Healing Center, 3610 W. Liberty, on February 13 at 7 p.m. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★"Investments 101": Ann Arbor District Library. Financial advisor Amy Doyle offers suggestions for some things kids in grades 6–12 can do to make their money grow. *7–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★"The Evolution of African American Music": Ann Arbor District Library. Lecture-demo by veteran Detroit composer, arranger, and multi-instrumentalist **Kasuku Mafia,** founder of the Success Academy of Fine Arts in Detroit. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"Favorite Bonsai and Japanese Gardens": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Club members give short slide-illustrated talks on the Chicago Botanic Gardens, the National Arboretum, Hidden Lake Gardens (Tipton, Michigan), and other favorites. All encouraged to bring digital images of favorite Japanese or bonsai gardens to show and chat about. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 747–6493.*

Nik Baertsch's Ronin: The Firefly Club. Self-styled "zen-funk" Swiss avant-jazz quintet led by composer-pianist Baertsch. "Despite the multiplicity of the band's influences—be they funk, new classical music or sounds from Japanese ritual music—these forms are never merely juxtaposed in a postmodernist fashion but instead amalgamated into a coherent new style," says jazz critic Michael Mettler. *8 &*

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10 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. Tickets $12 in advance and (if available) at the door. 665–9090.

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

28 THURSDAY

★**Big Ten Championships. U-M Men's Swimming & Diving.** *February 28 & March 1. Times TBA, Canham Natatorium, Hoover at S. Division. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"Wildlife Safari": Ann Arbor District Library.** Wildlife biologist Nelson Pearson, owner of Wildlife Safari Adventures in Canton, displays a variety of live animals and discusses their habitats. *10–11 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Snap! Get Digital!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 9–12 invited to bring in their digital cameras to take photos and learn how to load them onto the computer. *1–4 p.m., AADL computer lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petit fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *1 & 4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $8.50 (babies 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665–9468.*

★**"Storytelling: Learning to Tell Great Stories (and Great Books to Share with Grandkids)": Jewish Community Center Grandparent University.** Talk by veteran local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor. *1–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Favoring Fiber": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors invited to watch social worker Jan Kemp, a local representative of the D.C.-based nonprofit the Cancer Project, show how to prepare a fiber-rich meal and dine on the results. *4:30–6 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9353.*

★**"Live a Positive Legacy": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local life coach Diana Patton. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**"Herbal Allies for Menopause": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**Ypsilanti Community Band.** Jerry Robbins conducts this 70-member adult band in Jean Sibelius's soaring, powerful *Finlandia*, Richard Rodgers's rousing *Victory at Sea*, a medley of Broadway show music from the 60s, and several other works that were favorites of the late YCB charter member **Ken Bowman,** to whom this concert is a tribute. *7:30 p.m., EMU University Park (just east of the EMU Student Center on Oakwood between Huron River Dr. and Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. Free. 728–9437.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Wisconsin. *8 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

Po' Girl: The Ark. All-female alt-folk acoustic quartet from Vancouver whose music blends Depression-era blues & jazz, Cajun, and R&B flavors, spiked with a streak of edgy street punk poetry. "It's the lazy sway of Po' Girl's music, a hypnotic and humid sway that's hard to resist," says *All Music Guide* writer David Jeffries in his review of the band's debut CD *Vagabond Lullabies*. "The porches in Vancouver must be wonderful places to play music, since there is a genuine smile that comes through Po' Girl's music, and despite all the wandering, the tunes always come home in the end." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Doubt: A Parable": Performance Network Professional Season. See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Mark Sweeney: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *February 28 & 29 and March 1.* This Chicago native is a very funny monologist known for his fresh, sharp observational humor about various aspects of contemporary life and culture. A frequent performer on cable TV, he has also made guest appearances in several TV shows, including *Third Rock from the Sun* and *Boston Public*. Opening act is Detroit-area comic Connie Ettinger. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

29 FRIDAY

★**Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists.** See 8 Friday. Today: performers TBA. Noon.

★**"Leap Day Open Play": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 invited to play strategic tabletop games like Settlers of Catan, Carcassonne, and Internal Contraption. Games provided, or bring your favorites. Get Your Game On owner Alex Horvath is on hand to teach beginners. *1–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ferris State. *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

"27th Anniversary Dawn Dance Weekend": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *February 29 and March 1 & 2.* A weekend of folk dancing to live music, with around 400 people expected to dance or just listen to the many fine musicians. Tonight: Joseph Pimentel and Glen Morningstar call contras to music by the Great Bear Trio in the gym, and Susan Kevra leads English country dancing to music by Foxfire, with Paul Oorts, in the cafeteria. Wear clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing (no dancing in street shoes allowed). Bring a snack for the community treat table. *7:30 p.m.–1 a.m., Clague Middle School, 2616 Nixon Rd. just east of Bluett. $20 (Feb. 29), $18 (Mar. 1 afternoon), $20 (Mar. 1 evening), & $16 (Mar. 2) at the door only. Weekend pass $60 at the door (youth and AACTMAD members, $55 in advance only). 677–0212.*

Small Potatoes: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Acclaimed Chicago-based husband-and-wife duo of Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso, who are known for their tightly woven vocal harmonies and their proficiency on an array of instruments. Their repertoire is an eclectic, folksy mix of music from country & western, blues, and swing to Irish, along with originals in a mix of those idioms. "They're original, funny, energetic, profound, always respectful of the music but always daring to try new things," says Phee Sherline of the San Diego Folk Heritage Society. "When they get their hands on music, rhythmically and harmonically, it just takes off." Small Potatoes has an acclaimed recent CD, *Waltz of the Wallflowers*. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Bill Kirchen: The Ark. An Ann Arbor native who first gained fame as the guitarist in Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, Kirchen and his band play a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs that critics have dubbed "dieselbilly." Kirchen, who has lived in Washington, D.C., since 1986, has been inducted into the Washington Area Music Association Hall of Fame. "[Kirchen's] no-nonsense diesel guitar attack, powered by great booming, bottom-heavy licks still covered with axle grease, is undoubtedly the real thing. Scattering scorching guitar runs in all directions, it's all immediate, in your face, and more than a little dangerous," says the *Austin American-Statesman*. His latest CD, *Hammer of the Honky-Tonk Gods*, is a collection of songs showcasing his stylistic versatility, from hardcore honky-tonk and rockabilly to acoustic swing and countrypolitan balladry. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Vino Veritas": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Doubt: A Parable": Performance Network Professional Season. See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**Comedy Night: University Lutheran Chapel Common Cup.** Performances by a variety of local stand-up comics. *8 p.m., Common Cup (lower level), 1511 Washtenaw. Free. 327–6914.*

Mark Sweeney: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 28 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. All headlined Ark shows are included in the daily Events listings. **Feb. 13 & 27: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). 7:30–10 p.m.

Banfield's

3140 Packard Rd. **971–3300**

This east-side sports bar features live music or a DJ on Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Dancing, no cover. February schedule TBA.

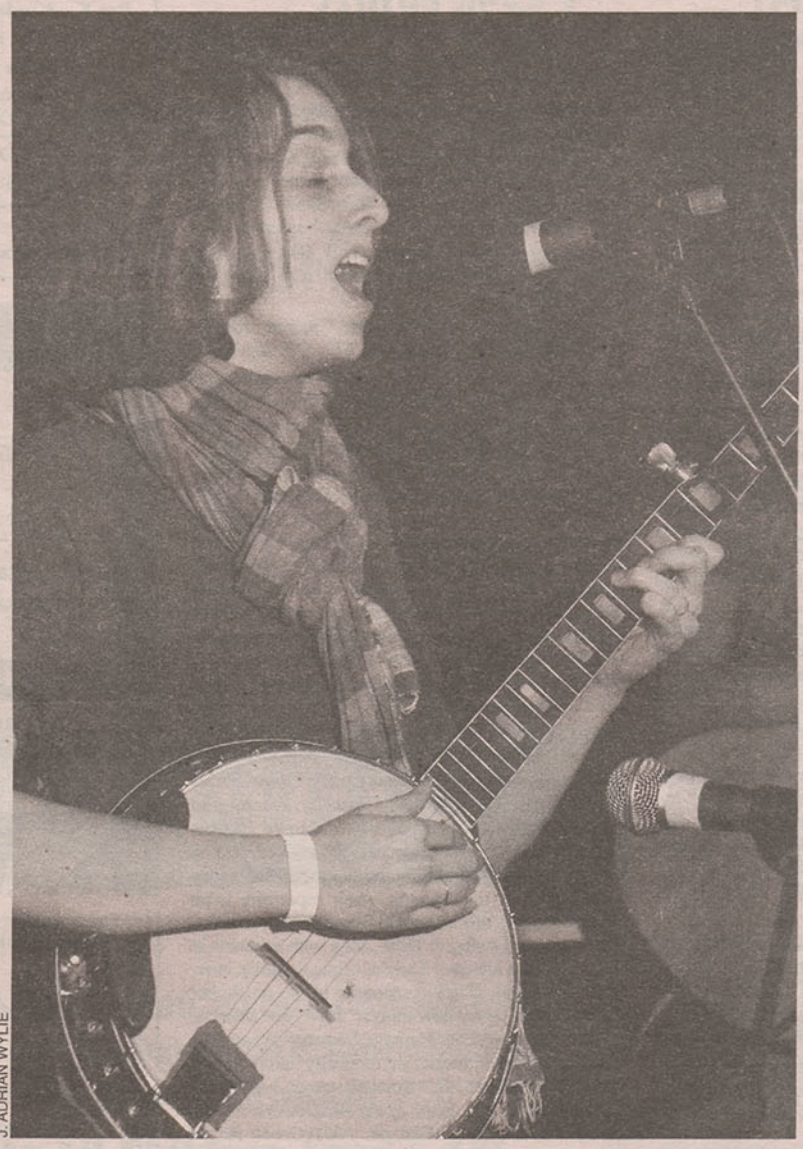
The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon. (except Feb. 25); closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Feb. 1: Ann Arbor Dub Project.** Local reggae-rock band. **Feb. 2: Nick Speed.** Ypsilanti hip-hop MC. Opening acts are hip-hop MCs **Marv Won, Neco Redd, Phat Kat, Denny Brown, 87,** and **Chill Will. Feb. 5: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Feb. 6: Jukebox the Ghost.** Indie pop-rock trio from Washington, D.C. Opening act is **Tim Williams,** a New York City indie singer-songwriter. **Feb. 7: Mahoney.** Local acoustic experimental rock duo. Opening acts are **The Bloids,** an eclectic local pop-rock duo, and **The Disregarded,** a self-styled "dirt-hop" quartet from Oakville whose music blends American roots music with urban rap, gospel-tinged choruses, and rock 'n' roll energy. **Feb. 8: Hullabaloo.** Local ska and 80s-style pop quintet. Opening acts TBA. **Feb. 9: "Bob Marley Birthday Bash."** Headliner is **Turbulence,** a Jamaican reggae singer. See Events. **Feb. 12: Vampire Weekend.** *All ages admitted.* New York City pop-punk quartet. Opening act is **Sam Buck Rosen.** See Events. 8–11:30 p.m. **Feb. 13:** TBA. **Feb. 14: Greensky Bluegrass.** Kalamazoo bluegrass band that won the 2006 Telluride Bluegrass Band Competition. **Feb. 15: The Great Divide.** Horn-driven local blues-rock and soul septet. Opening acts are **The Hue,** a progressive rock band from Chicago, and **Wild Sweet Orange,** a Birmingham, Alabama, pop quartet. **Feb. 16: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **Feb. 17: Yoav.** Israeli-born singer-songwriter who grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. 8 p.m.–midnight. See Events. **Feb. 19: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Feb. 20:** TBA. **Feb. 21: Needtobreathe.** South Carolina alternative rock quartet. Opening acts TBA. **Feb. 22: Macpodz.** Immensely popular local jam band plays an invigorating mix of R&B, soul, rock, and hard jazz it calls "disco bebop." Opening act is **Mifune,** a Madison rock jam band. **Feb. 23: Red, White, & Booze.** 80s metal tribute band. Opening acts are **Descended from Thieves,** a local alternative rock band, and **The Kincaids,** an Alma, Michigan, southern rock drum 'n' bass duo that gradually sabotages the music with comedy routines. **Feb. 25: Matt Costa.** Indie pop-rock quintet led by Costa, a singer-songwriter from Huntington, California. See Events. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 26: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Feb. 27: Murder Mystery.** *Tentative.* Indie rock quartet from Madison Heights. Opening acts (tentatively) are **Flatfoot,** a Lansing roots-rock band, and **The Beggars** (see Elbow Room). **Feb. 28: "Zuma Hi-Fi."** Local DJ **Billy the Kid** plays reggae records. **Feb. 29: Whitey Morgan & the Waycross, Georgia, Farm Boys.** Detroit retro outlaw honky-tonk band. Opening acts are the Kalamazoo postpunk pop-rock band **Van Go Go, The Off Ramps** (see TC's), and the Chelsea garage blues band **Bull Halsey.**

singer-songwriters

Anna Ash
Trilling



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Never one to go with the first metaphor that comes my way, I was dismayed, as I heard Anna Ash sing at a party on New Year's Eve, to find myself thinking, "Damn, this girl sings like a *bird!*"

But she really does.

The snows had not yet begun to fall that night when Anna Ash, as wispy and delicate as her name implies, took off her shoes in the living room of a sleek modernist house on the west side of town, tuned up her banjo, nodded to a young man with an upright bass, and began to trill. From my vantage point at the food table, I could see the room grow still and focused (no one was drunk yet) as Ash's strange and wonderful voice rang out across the Norwegian wood.

Perhaps it was the "salon" feel of the evening, but I kept imagining Ash 150 years ago, as after-dinner company would have urged her to favor them with a song. With a gray-silk-clad matron at the piano, she would have modestly delivered a popular song of the day: "A Shy Young Maid" or "Along These Poplar Lanes" or "Ever Do I Cleave to Thee"—okay, I'm totally making these up, but you know what I mean: songs that require a delicate, innocent soprano. I imagined her around 1920 in Hollywood, auditioning for a vaudeville show, singing reeeeeallly high, impressing some fat producer in suspenders, and getting the part. She's totally there in the 1940s too, in a black-and-white film, wearing a silky white gown at a smoky dinner club. . . .

'Round about 1950, the imagining got harder; this isn't rock 'n' roll. And even though her music is closer to folk than anything else, I wonder if Ash's understated, sometimes saucy femininity would have been drowned out by the protest songs of the 1960s.

But Ash, just twenty and from Elk Rapids, is here now. And we get to watch and listen as she makes these first forays into performing, sometimes with an able band of cohorts. She's no amateur and seems quite confident in this cool, avian niche of hers. She sang and sang that night—two good sets of interesting material, a mix of standards and her own interesting, clever songs. Everyone laughed when she broke into a "mouth trumpet" solo.

I bought two copies of her homespun four-song demo CD. The packaging is just brown paper sewed with green thread and adorned with a picture of cranes sunning themselves on a dock. It was recorded in a house on Catherine Street last May, and you can hear the creaking of the floors and the roomness of the room. I like it a lot and wish it were longer.

And Anna Ash, says the tiny slip of paper that serves as the liner notes, is responsible for the "banjo, vocals, mouth trumpet, and bird thoughts."

Anna Ash is at the Crazy Wisdom Tea Room on Saturday, February 2.

—Whit Hill

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 1: "Bookmaking for a Cause."** A benefit show for a U-M Health System activity book for teens and young adults. With the Northville rock band **L. S. Banjo,** local acid house and electronic music DJs **Tadd Mullinix** and **Dykehouse,** puppeteer **Bec Young,** and other acts TBA. **Feb. 21: Nat Baldwin.** Self-styled "neo-soul trance" music by this singer-songwriter from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who accompanies himself on upright bass. Opening acts are local pop-folk singer-songwriter **Eliza Godfrey,** folk-blues singer-songwriter **Alex Silver,** and the local pop-punk band **Heroes on Parade.**

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the complex has 2 street-level clubs, the Millennium Club, which features MTV-style video hits on plasma screens, and Gotham City, which features DJs with house music Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to all 3 clubs) Sat. only, dancing. Age 18 & older admitted. **Feb. 1: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. **Feb. 2 & 8: DJ Helluva.** Local DJ spins old-school rock. **Feb. 9 & 15: Killer Flamingos.** See above. **Feb. 22: DJ Helluva.** See above. **Feb. 23: Dot Dot Dot.** Fast-rising Chicago powerpop quintet that was the highest-ranking rock band in the Fox TV "Next Great American Band" competition.

The Circus

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This bar located on the top floor of the Cavern Club building features karaoke with live musicians, Thurs. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs. and Feb. 2 & 22: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take.**

Club Above

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music or DJs Thurs.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only unless otherwise noted. **Every Thurs.: Dance Party.** With DJ Rock and DJ Sterling. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. **Feb. 1:** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a new 4-song minidisk, *Clean House,* an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **Feb. 2:** TBA. **Feb. 8:** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Mr. Largebeat.** Big-beat space-rock band led by veteran local singer-songwriter Jim Gertz, who plays a theremin (the original synthesizer) and percussion. **Feb. 9:** TBA. **Feb. 15** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Feb. 16:** TBA. **Feb. 22** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Ypsitucky Colonels.** Local garage dance band whose music mixes country, blues, funk, and rock flavors. Members are Corndaddy guitarist Will Stewart and 3 former Boomerangs—guitarist R Baker, bassist Tom "Sugar" Robbins, and drummer Adam Berg. **Feb. 23:** TBA. **Feb. 29** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran lo-

cal band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King.

Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw **327–6914**

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment Fri., 8–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Feb. 8: Andrew Robinson.** Shelby Township singer-songwriter and guitarist whose music ranges from meditative ballads to energetic pop-rock. **Feb. 15: Andrew Hively.** Rock instrumentals by this Brighton acoustic and electric guitarist whose compositions range from straight-ahead pop-rock to prismatic, loosely melodic meditative tunes. **Feb. 22: Brittany Klocek.** Dexter acoustic guitarist.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.) & Thurs. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Feb. 7: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Feb. 14: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Feb. 21: The Hummingbirds.** Twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the duo of local singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula. Winner of a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. **Feb. 28: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences range from Leonard Cohen to Bob Dylan.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Feb. 1:** TBA. **Feb. 2: Anna Ash & the Family Tree.** *See review, p. 78.* Acoustic pop-folk band led by this local singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Laurel Premo,** a U-M student singer-songwriter. **Feb. 8: Mutual Kumquat.** Local band that plays a blend of folk, funk, bluegrass, and reggae. **Feb. 9: Charlene Kaye.** Local indie pop-folk singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. She's accompanied by cellist Taryn Wood, who also provides vocal harmonies. **Feb. 15: Sam Corbin.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Feb. 16: Lisa Pappas.** Michigan singer-songwriter who sings twangy pop-folk and country originals. **Feb. 22: Tyler Devos.** Singer-songwriter from Maine who writes wryly humorous, often harshly self-analytical songs about love and other personal themes and whose music draws on a range of influences from Ellis Paul and Vance Gilbert to Wilco and Bog Star. He is accompanied by his band, the Dry County Boys. **Feb. 23:** TBA. **Feb. 29: The Hummingbirds.** See Conor O'Neill's.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music Fri., 9 p.m.–midnight (through Feb. 1) and 7–10 p.m. (beginning Feb. 8), and occasional other nights. The music moves into a downstairs room beginning Feb. 8. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 1: Danny Gutowski.** Local country singer who specializes in Johnny Cash songs. He is accompanied by bassist Chris Goerke. **Feb. 8: NoXcuses.** Local classic rock, blues, and R&B band. **Feb. 15: Danny Gutowski.** See above. **Feb. 22: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** Veteran local classic country and country-rock band led by singer-guitarist Newhouse. With guitarist Kevin Brown, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. **Feb. 24: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-30s swing and 40s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m. **Feb. 29: Bowdish Brothers.** Local country trio led by singer-guitarist Mike Smith and featuring 2 other members of the Cadillac Cowboys, bassist Gary Munce and pianist and mandolinist Kelly Schmidt.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti657–2337

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features occasional live music, 8–10 p.m. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Feb. 1: Misha Grey.** This local composer is joined by Ethan Disbrow and Curtis Glatter to perform Grey's solos and duets for assorted percussion instruments, including piano, drum set, vibraphone, bottle xylophone, Tibetan cymbals, and more. **Feb. 3: "What Are You Looking At?"** East Coast saxophonist Michael Straus presents a multimedia show featuring various saxophones, live electronics, and films. **Feb. 9: "Bare Wire Technologies Showcase."** An evening of experimental music by artists on the Bare Wire Technologies label.

The Earle

121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** See above. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, drummer Robert Warren, and bassist Russel Tessier.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483–6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Feb. 1: That's Him, That's the Guy.** Acoustic folk-rock duo from Ferndale. Opening acts are local pop-folk singer-songwriter **Matt Jones,** Ypsilanti folk-style indie singer-songwriter **Annie Palmer,** Americana singer-songwriter **David Lamb** of the Biddeford, Maine, band Brown Bird, and **Drunken Barn Dance,** a local experimental alt-country and folk-rock band fronted by Scott Sellwood of Saturday Looks Good to Me. **Feb. 2: We Are the Fury.** Postpunk pop-rock glam quintet from Toledo. Opening acts are the local neo–new wave band **Minor Planets,** the veteran Saline rock 'n' roll band **Novada,** and the Toledo-area pop-punk band **Alien Radio. Feb. 3: "StuporBowl Sunday V."** A counterculture Super Bowl party with live music that starts at halftime. Headliner is **Blammo,** a veteran local sextet that plays a blend of wickedly humorous, socially observant originals and choice punk covers by the likes of Patti Smith, the Dead Kennedys, X, and the Ramones. Opening acts are the Detroit garage-punk surf band **Amino Acids,** the local punk-folk band **Versificators,** Chrome Mali songwriter **Franky Hollywood,** and **Counter Cosby,** a local band that plays sarcastic, goofy, prog-rock metal. **Feb. 6: Mask of Sanity.** Detroit postpunk band whose music blends hip-hop, reggaeton, funk, and metal. Opening acts are **Petafylers,** a Howell punk band, and **Randall Mickens. Feb. 8: Wildcatting.** Ypsilanti metal-rock band. Opening acts are the Ferndale noise-metal band **Ganon,** the local rock trio **Idol & the Whip,** and **A Working Model,** a local progressive rock quartet whose influences range from King Crimson to Tool. **Feb. 9: Lone Wolf and Cub.** Progressive indie rock quintet from Spring Arbor. Opening acts are the Canton indie rock quartet **The Word Play,** the Marion, Indiana, indie rock quartet **Away with Vega,** and **Alec Jensen,** a local indie pop singer-songwriter who recently transplanted to Chicago. **Feb. 10: Mike Borgia.** Postpunk lo-fi singer-songwriter from New York City. Opening act is **These Eyes Are Cameras,** an experimental ambient folk quartet from Manchester, England. **Feb. 13: The Sleep of Reason.** Alternative rock quartet from Long Island. Opening acts are **SC Butter,** a northeast Ohio 7-piece funk-rock jam band, and **Laserbeams of Boredom,** an Ypsilanti experimental drum 'n' bass one-man-band. **Feb. 15: "2nd Annual Bloody Valentine Party."** With the local pop-rock band **The Hand-Me Downs,** the local **Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co.,** the area carnival acts **Arson's Blazing Carnival** and **The No Joke Sideshow,** and DJs **Chuck Damage** and **Double Plus. Feb. 16: Used to Be Women.** Soul-inflected pop-rock sextet from Brooklyn, New York, fronted by veteran local singer-songwriter Gregory Stovetop. Opening acts are the Grand Rapids alternative-rock band **The Concussions,** the Detroit garage trio **Hearsemen,** and the Fort Wayne indie rock band **The Copper Thieves. Feb. 17: SE Engine.** Folk-rock quartet from Athens, Georgia. Opening act is **Frontier Ruckus,** an experimental bluegrass band from Lake Orion. **Feb. 19: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Feb. 20: Something Not Spoken.** Stage name of Monroe acoustic rock singer-songwriter Josh Rankin. Opening acts are **Cavalcade,** a Lansing nu-jazz metal quintet, and **Joey Brooks,** a Taylor pop-rock singer-songwriter. **Feb. 22: The Beggars.** Local retro garage rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Bul-**

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FOR ALL OF THIS MONTH'S COMICS SEE LISTINGS IN THIS ISSUE

Showtimes
Wed. & Thurs. - 8pm
Wed is Open Mic Comedy Jamm All tix $5
Fri. & Sat.- 8 & 10:30pm
Fri. & Sat. 8 pm shows are non-smoking

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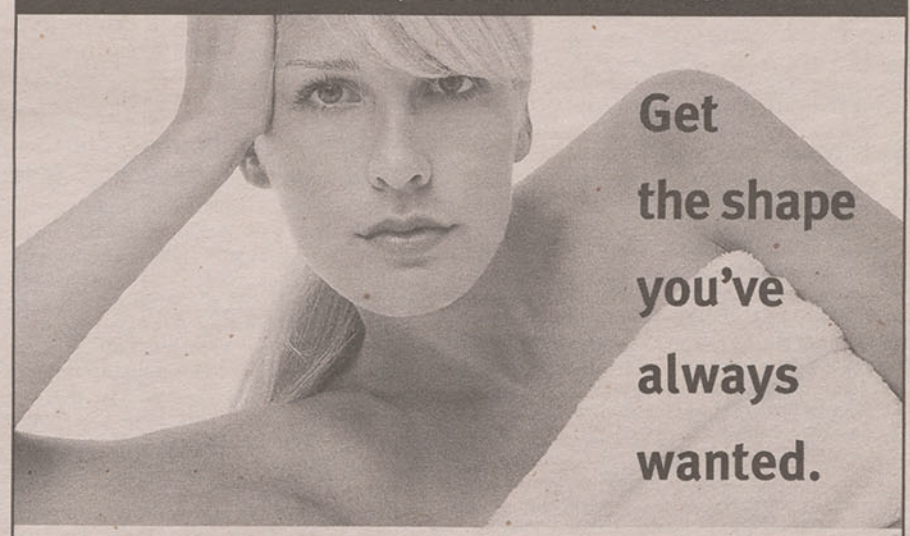

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letproof, a local pop-punk band, and **Sunday Painters,** a Detroit power pop band. **Feb. 23** (5–8 p.m.)**: "Ann Arbor Skatepark Benefit Show."** *All ages admitted.* With **Hairy Drain Babies, Guilty Bystanders, Monsters or Mayhem,** and **Minus 9.** See Events. **Feb. 23: Ashes of the Enemy.** Local progressive hardcore-metal band. Opening acts are the progressive rock-inflected Wayne hip-hop band **Big Fat Kill** and another band TBA. **Feb. 24: Stax Hungry.** Detroit band plays a fusion of alternative rock and hip-hop. Opening acts are **Back Seat Cadillac,** a Detroit southern rock band, and **We Are Desire,** a local hardcore band. **Feb. 26: "Club Fit."** Indie rock dance party with DJs Ayron Michael Nelson and Louis P. **Feb. 27: Second-Hand Satellite.** Local alternative rock band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist James Henes. Opening acts are **Inflicted,** a Fenton metal band, and **Suthyrn Darx. Feb. 29: Canada.** Popular local experimental pop-folk septet that features 2 cellists. Opening acts are **Modernlull,** a local acoustic country-folk band, and **Vince Dynamic,** an indie jazz-pop band from Essexville.

The Firefly Club

637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press,* that recently moved to a new location next to South Main Market. Live jazz Mon. & occasional Tues., 8–11 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Wed., 8–10:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Thurs., 8–11 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; and Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Tues.–Thurs.** (11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.)**: "Nightowl."** Late-night shows with performers TBA on Tues. & Wed. and **DJ 'munk** with Latin rhythms and rare grooves on Thurs. No cover. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.** (except Feb. 6 & 27)**: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. 8–10:30 p.m. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 50s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). 8–11 p.m. **Feb. 1: Steve Richko Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by the dynamic young Detroit pianist Richko and featuring guest vocalist (and Firefly owner) **Susan Chastain. Feb. 2: "Torch Songs and Toe Tappers."** With local cabaret singer **Lisa Gray** and opening and closing sets by the local **Out Loud Chorus.** See Events. 7 & 9 p.m. **Feb. 6:** Closed. **Feb. 8: John E. Lawrence Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran local guitarist Lawrence. **Feb. 9: Ben Jansson Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by Ann Arbor–bred saxophonist Janssen, a recent U-M grad. **Feb. 12: Jazz Greenhouse Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. **Feb. 15: Rolando Matias and His Afro-Rican Ensemble.** Heralded 10-piece New York City–based jazz ensemble led by percussionist Matias. See Events. **Feb. 16: Los Gatos.** See above. A fund-raiser for Wines Elementary School. **Feb. 19: The Cool Moose Orchestra.** Ensemble of local middle and high school jazz musicians led by Glen Tucker. **Feb. 22: Pat Prouty Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit-area composer-bassist Prouty, who tonight is celebrating the release of his new CD, *The Charmed Life*. **Feb. 23: Tierney Sutton.** Acclaimed L.A.-based jazz singer. See Events. 8 & 10 p.m. **Feb. 26: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers. **Feb. 27: Nik Baertsch's Ronin.** Self-styled "zen-funk" Swiss avant-jazz quintet led by composer-pianist Baertsch. See Events. 8 & 10 p.m. **Feb. 29: Steve Richko/Paul Keller/Pete Siers Jazz Trio.** The dynamic young Detroit pianist Richko teams up with the veteran local rhythm section of bassist Keller and drummer Siers to perform a tribute to jazz pianist Oscar Peterson. The program of Peterson arrangements and compositions includes excerpts from his *Canadiana Suite* and from his recording of music from *West Side Story.*

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **623–2070**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Wed.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. (except Feb. 12). Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Feb. 1: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Feb. 2: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Feb. 6 & 7: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Feb. 8: Rob Johnson.** Blues band led by Livonia singer-guitarist Johnson. **Feb. 9: Chef Chris & the Blue Plate Specials.** Blues quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist Chef Chris Sirvinskis. **Feb. 12 & 13: Nick Strange Cosmic Duo.** Jazz by the local duo of singer-guitarist Dan Orcutt and vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. **Feb. 14: SG Ensemble.** Local jazz ensemble fronted by vocalists Sarah Grogan and Sara Grieshaber. **Feb. 15: Tumbao Bravo.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales. **Feb. 16: Nick Strange Trio.** Popular local jazz-rock fusion dance band whose music draws variously on blues, reggae, calypso, and other idioms. With guest vocalist **Jessica Oberholtzer. Feb. 17: "Urban Cowgirl Cabaret."** Blues, folk, and country song-and-dance revue featuring 5 female vocalists backed by a quartet. **Feb. 20–22: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Feb. 23: Lester Blues.** See above. **Feb. 28: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Feb. 29: Nick Strange Trio.** See above.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** Live bands TBA.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.–Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 1 & 2: Chateau.** Veteran pop dance band. **Feb. 5–7: Rick Hicks.** Solo R&B singer-guitarist. **Feb. 8: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this Detroit band. **Feb. 9: Good Gravy.** R&B band from Bloomfield Hills. **Feb. 12–14: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **Feb. 15 & 16: Ultraviolet.** Detroit band that plays 80s & 90s rock hits. **Feb. 19–23: Diversity.** Top 40 dance band. **Feb. 26–28: Al Hill Band.** See Melange. **Feb. 29: Rumpelstiltskin.** Motown and other classic dance pop by this popular 8-piece Las Vegas–style show band.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, formerly known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. February schedule TBA.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. **764–7544**

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. Dancing, no cover. **Feb. 7 & 14: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. 8:30–10:30 p.m.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 1: "Dance Night."** With DJ D. Rex. **Feb. 2: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell. **Feb. 7: "Dance Night."** With DJ D. Rex. **Feb. 8: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nig Daddie. **Feb. 9: My Dear Disco.** See TC's. **Feb. 14: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell. **Feb. 15, 16, 21, & 22: "Dance Night."** With DJ Mechial White. **Feb. 23: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell. **Feb. 28: "Dance Night."** With DJ Mechial White. **Feb. 29: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nig Daddie.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music or DJs Tues.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Tues., Wed., & Sat.: The Groove-Matist.** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Feb. 1: Kris K Band.** Local quartet led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Feb. 8: R.J.'s Rhythm Rockers.** Swinging Detroit blues band led by drummer R. J. Spangler. **Feb. 15: Al Hill Band.** Blues, R&B, and soul standards, originals, and obscurities by this local quartet led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. **Feb. 22 & 29: Blackman & Arnold.** Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday."** Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Hardy spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJ Timmy D spinning high-energy dance tunes in the main room and, in the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark playing retro music videos and DJ John G spinning Top 40 records. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the Red Room a variety of Top 40 music videos.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Feb. 3:** No music. **Feb. 10: Chris Buhalis.** This popular local singer-songwriter sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country songs about ordinary American life that range from stories set in Alaska's whiskey-soaked bars and Detroit auto plants to the caustically witty "Talkin' Sounds Just like Joe McCarthy Blues." **Feb. 17: Bill Bynum & Company.** Acoustic quartet led by Bynum, a highly regarded Downriver singer-songwriter and guitarist whose bluegrass-based songs also draw on old-time, early country, gospel, and contemporary folk music. **Feb. 24: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** See Creekside.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Feb. 5: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Feb. 12: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Feb. 19: "Originals Only Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Oz, aka Steve Osburn. Advance sign-up required. **Feb. 22: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. & Fri., 6–9 p.m., and Sat., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **Every Thurs.: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. Some weeks, Springer is joined or replaced by jazz pianist **John Hobart.**

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Mon. & Wed.–Fri., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Wed.: DJ Swerve.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Thurs. & Fri: DJ Equinox.** DJ spins dance records.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. **302–3687**

This dinner club features DJs Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only. **Every Sat.: "Hip-Hop and House Night."** With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck.

Tap Room Annex

205 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **487–5544**

This tavern next door to the Tap Room has suspended its music programming until early 2008, when it will have been absorbed into an expanded and remodeled Tap Room.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **483–4470**

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features an open mike on Mon., DJs on Tues. & Thurs., and dance bands Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Rob Moses.** Local solo pianist. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Jam.** All musicians invited. **Every Tues.: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take. Every Thurs.: DJ Chill Will.** This DJ spins hip-hop and reggae records. **Feb. 1: My Dear Disco.** Local dance septet, formerly known as Toolbox, that plays a blend of techno, funk, and jamming known as nu-jazz. Opening act is **Farewell Republic,** a local neopsychedelic ambient rock quartet. **Feb. 2: DJ-45.** Local breakbeat and house DJ. Opening act is **Danny Boy,** a Northville house DJ. **Feb. 6: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with 80s & 90s pop dance hits with **DJ Deep Six,** a Hamilton, Ontario, DJ who specializes in UK garage, grime, and dubstep. **Feb. 8: The Dirty Americans.** Detroit band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening acts are **Collateral Damage,** a local hard-rock band, and **Wound,** an alternative rock band from Dearborn. **Feb. 9: The Beggars.** See Elbow Room. Opening acts are **The Off Ramps,** a Plymouth postpunk power-pop band, and **The Blue Rubys,** a local almost-all-female country-rock quintet. **Feb. 13: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with entertainment TBA. **Feb. 15: Tone and Niche.** Detroit indie pop-rock quintet fronted by singer-guitarist Anthony Retka and singer-violinist Nicole Varga. Opening acts are **Spencer Michaud,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist whose music blends Motown, Tin Pan Alley, and folk, and **Bone Orchard Revival,** the local alt-country duo of Jeni Lee Richey and Adam Arscott. **Feb. 16: Sons of the Gun.** Local band featuring former members of Thrall and Aurora that plays spacey neopsychedelic rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are **The Dead Bodies,** a Detroit pop-rock garage band, and **Lies Unknown,** a Clinton Township pop-punk quartet. **Feb. 20: "She Bang!"** Ladies night karaoke. **Feb. 22: Bitter Inks.** Ypsilanti acoustic pop-rock trio. Opening acts are **The New Green,** a local pop-folk octet led by singer-songwriter Steven Clausnitzer that's been compared to the Beatles, Wilco, and Sufjan Stevens, and **Vox Maui,** a Detroit psychedelic rock quartet with an avant-jazz edge. **Feb. 23: Throttlebody.** Detroit band featuring members of Solid Frog that plays inventive, heavy-hitting rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are the South Lyon experimental rock band **Crutch to Crown,** the Detroit rock band **Spiral Crush,** and **60 Second Crush,** a Detroit hard-rock band led by Motordolls bassist Dana Forrester. **Feb. 27: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with 80s & 90s pop dance hits with **DJ B Girrrl. Feb. 29: Dead Elvis.** Ypsilanti rockabilly singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **The 77s,** an Ypsilanti band that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar rockabilly, and another band TBA.

Underground

911 North University **763–4652**

This all-ages club in the Michigan League basement features live music Thurs., 8:30–11 p.m., and occasional Fri. & Sat., 9–11 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). No cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Feb. 15: Open Mike Night.** All U-M-affiliated performers invited; sign-up is at 7:45 p.m. 8:30–11:30 p.m. ■

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Classifieds

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Miscellaneous

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I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 107? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, February 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

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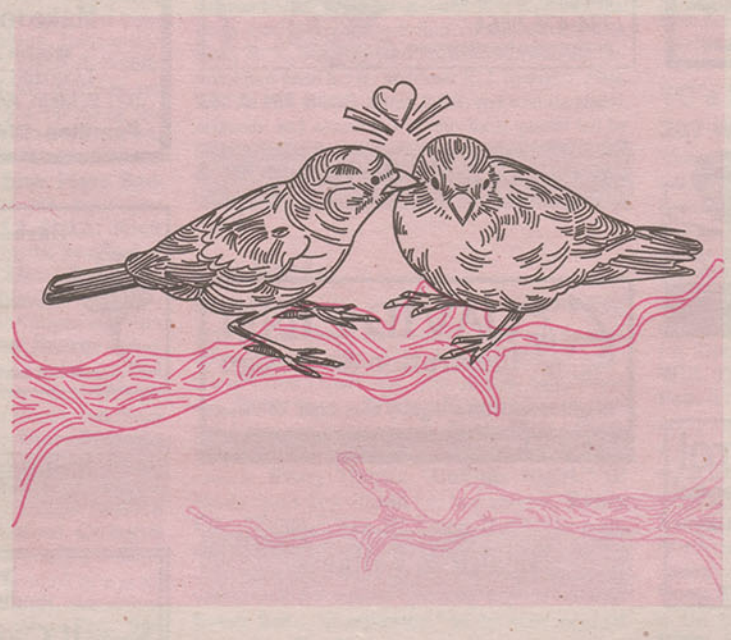

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The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

Homes for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

I'll buy or lease your house in 7 days or less! No equity? No problem. Stop foreclosure/double payments. No commission/fees. (888) 546–6521, ext. 231. 24-hour recorded message.

SALINE—Classic updated older home across from Wilderness Park. $269,900. Call Jim Levleit, (734) 429–5262. Century 21 Brookshire.

SALINE—Five-bedroom brick home with walkout. Yorkshire Hills. Outstanding value at $379,000. Call Marjorie, (734) 635–1881.

Livingston Co. & Fenton—Beautiful homes and condos. Affordable pricing/lower taxes. 30 min. north of Ann Arbor. Visit my website: borntosellhomes.com. Marcia Dicks, RE/MAX Platinum. Agent on call: (810) 730–3034.

Condos for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

EAGLE RIDGE CONDO, Ann Arbor—Beautiful 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath end unit, superb feng shui. $190,000. Call Marjorie, (734) 635–1881.

Travis Pointe Garden Ranch Condo
2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, full walkout. Hardwood floors. New carpeting. Call (734) 997–7626 for particulars.

Commercial Property

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

For Rent

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

Summer Rental
2-bedroom home near athletic facilities on West Side. Furnished. Off-street parking. No smoking. No pets.
Available in May until September 1.
Call (609) 466–6806.

Commercial for Rent/Lease

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

Vacation Rental

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

SWPF, 49, is one class act. Pretty lady loves country music, singing, acting, romantic dinners, and movies. Seeks SWPM, NS, 44–55. ☎5730✍

Start the year with a loving relationship. Bright, beautiful, kind, caring **SWPF** seeks like-minded SWPM, 45+, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Must love animals. ☎5728✍

SWF, educated, professional, ISO SWPM, 52–65. NS, no tattoo. LTR and possible marriage. ☎5727✍

We do what I want. Queen ISO uxorious S/DWM, 38–60, for Chicago, up north, fireplaces. **SWPF,** 40s, bossy, sensual. ☎5729✍

ISO adventure, excitement, discovery—best shared by two. **DWPJF,** 56, seeks widowed/DWPM, 55–65, who is educated, open-minded, caring, and fun-loving. ☎5722✍

Let's have some fun. I'm 42, brown hair, brown eyes. I enjoy dancing, going to concerts, and having fun in life. Looking for my special man. ☎5711✍

Slim, healthy, educated, thoughtful, liberal A2 woman in search of a good man/partner, approximately 50 years old. ☎5708✍

Seeking marriage and family, 40-ish female, no kids, never married, likes pets, home renovation, and new experiences. Serious and sincere only please. ☎5707✍

Slim **PBF,** 50s and fit. Likes movies, dance. No dependents. ISO SPM, 50 to 60, NS, fit. LTR. ☎5693✍

DWCF, 53, NS, with everything but the guy! Happy with my life, ISO the right man to share it with. ISO D/S, WCM, 40s to 50s, NS. Enjoy simple pleasures, simple lifestyle. ☎5680✍

Highly educated, foreign-born American, semiretired **SWF,** 5'2", NS, ND, ISO mentally and emotionally healthy gentleman friend, in his early 70s. ☎5668✍

Pretty nature lover, 5'7", 132 lbs., long curly hair, blue eyes. Into yoga, music, health, laughing, and more. Loyal, honest, and giving. Feeler of rocks, trees, and energy. ☎5630✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

SWCM, 54, friendly, curious, active in A2, likes movies, walks, dances, volunteering, ISO active Catholic SWPF for LTR, and for fun, local happenings. ☎5726✍

DWM, 54, good looking, 6'+, liberal, educated, meditator, seeks spiritual partner. You only must love yourself. ☎5723✍

SWM, 46, loves to play games, uncanny humor, tall, trim, loves cheap coffee, animals, educated, great to talk to, ISO proman, truly seeking, optimistic female. ☎5725✍

SAPM, 60+, NS, ND, 5'6", young looking, fit, home owner, healthy, romantic; love travel, yoga, veg. cooking, cuddles. ISO SA/WF, any age, for active fun, LTR, home-buddy, simple lifestyles. ☎5721✍

Eyes blue, brown, or hazel: one dollar.
Short, medium, or tall: one dollar.
Age 40–55: one dollar.
Smarts and sense of humor: priceless. ☎5716✍

Tennis player, film lover, **SWPM,** 5'11", fit, 50. ISO artistic, possibly athletic SWF for LTR. Ilene, please leave your phone number. ☎5715✍

Time for fun! NYC native with Midwestern heart, 50s. Consultant/liberal talk show host. Great kisser. ISO happy, thin/average contemporary woman with a great smile. ☎5687✍

DWM, 59, 5'7", ISO good-looking woman, 120–140 lbs., SWF, 45–55, LTR, NS. Loves movies and motorcycle trips. Loves being spoiled. ☎5679✍

Bright, bearded, boyish, monogamous **SWM,** 59, professional, fond of food, film, cats, chats, cuddling, walks, seeks SF for long-term romance, travel, fun. ☎5674✍

Time for a change? **SWPM,** 49, 5'8", fit, introspective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35–50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5704✍

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. **SWM,** 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. ☎5655✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. ☎5689✍

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

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Women Seeking Women

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Men Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

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General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 11.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
You don't have to ski to be a member! But if you do, check out our fabulous "Ski Schedule" for 2008 on our website. We are also a "4 season" social and sports club for singles & couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 400 members! Upcoming events: **2/2 Night Out on the Town; 2/9 Night Out on the Town; 2/14 General Meeting/ Valentine Dance at Cobblestone Farm; 2/15 Informal Euchre League; 2/23 Night Out on the Town; and 2/28 General Meeting/Sadie Hawkins Dance at Cobblestone Farm.** For more info on events, including sign-up procedures, go to www.a2skiclub.org.

It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

To respond by phone, call (900) 226–8978. Or to respond by phone using a credit card, call (888) 718–4827. You must be 18 or older. $1.95 a minute.

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail:

Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to: **Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.**

Place Your FREE Community Observer Personals Ad Today!

- **Email: classifieds@arborweb.com • Fax: (734) 769–3375**
- **Online: www.arborweb.com or www.arborlist.com**
- **Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at:

www.arborlist.com—*totally free classifieds,* and **www.arborweb.com**—*Ann Arbor online*

Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769–3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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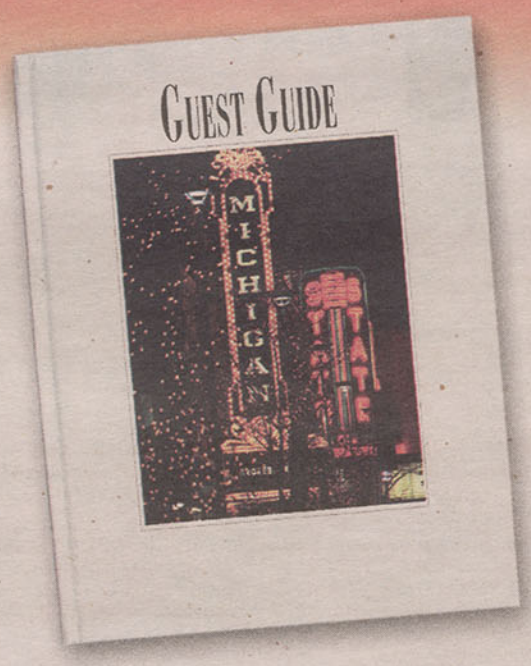

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2008–2010

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Space Closing:* Thursday, February 28
Materials Closing: Thursday, March 27
Publication: June 2008

*Reservations secured by February 28 include free basic design.

To reserve ad space, call
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Real Estate
GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

Cover listing by:

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Ann Arbor Observer February 2008 Volume 15 Number 9

WE'RE the local experts IN finding THE best mortgage solutions in this turbulent MARKET.

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Ann Arbor 834 Main St. Great student rental or extended family opportunity. Front of house has old world charm and 2004 addition with 2-car garage. Near downtown on bus line. $350,000. #2800469

Dexter 3940 Glacier Lake Ct. Awesome new construction. 3,500 sq. ft. home in Preserve by Beechwood Builders. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, study, cook's kitchen. Landscaped, deck. $679,000. #2800425

Ann Arbor 682 Boston. Well-appointed detached condo with plenty of extras: jetted tub with ceramic, fresh paint, wood floors, cherry built-ins and solid surface kitchen. 1st floor master and laundry. $245,000. #2711597

Saline 5635 Catherine. Wonderful custom home loaded with upgrades. 4,300 sq. ft. + finished viewout lower level. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 studies, built-ins, wood floors, great private views. $455,000. #2715929

Ann Arbor 505 E. Huron #303. Incredible and rare corner custom condo in Sloan Plaza. Gleaming cherry floors, nicely appointed kitchen. Huge master with built-ins. Corner terrace, 2 parking spots. $750,000. #2800302

Ann Arbor 5934 Quebec Ave. Sparkling, sunny, updated 2-story home. Cherry kitchen, stainless appliances, Corian counters, hardwood. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family room, 2-tier deck, viewout lower level. $275,000. #2712868

Ann Arbor 1400 Westfield. Inviting, traditional home totally renovated and remodeled on over 3/4 acre lot. New kitchen, hardwood floors, beautiful lot and location. $479,000. #2800441

Ann Arbor 139 Laurin. Extraordinary contemporary brick ranch on 2.15 acre hilltop. Overlooks Gallup Park and the 362 ft. of frontage on the Huron River. Million dollar views. Surrounded by mature trees. $1,150,000. #2800370

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Presented by the Ann Arbor Observer—see p. 92

Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

www.arborweb.com

On the Cover: Remarkable new brick-and-cedar custom home by Elan Designs on a two-acre wooded lot in Superior Township's Fleming Lake Estates. Its 5,350 square feet includes five bedrooms, four and a half baths, walls of windows with panoramic views, an impressive great room with soaring ceiling and stone fireplace, and a marvelous cherry kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. 3060 Bird Song. $1,190,00. Elizabeth Brien, Charles Reinhart Company, 645-4444.

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

Advertisers

Elizabeth Brien—Charles Reinhart 86
Matt Dejanovich—Real Estate One 88, 89
Glenda Gerbstadt—
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Thank You!

To all our past customers and clients for the phenomenal year we had in 2007.

For the 6th year in a row, the Bouma Group has sold more homes than anyone else in Washtenaw County. Having sold over 1900 homes in his career, Martin and his team ended 2007 with 210 closed transactions. "In these challenging times, we remain very optimistic. In spite of a market where the total volume of sales was down 12.7%, the Bouma Group saw an increase in sales of 8.1%. Our new location in downtown Ann Arbor, our superbly trained and knowledgeable staff, and our cutting edge marketing has contributed to the Bouma Group breaking all records." Martin's in-depth knowledge of current market conditions has been imperative in getting his listings priced correctly and sold. Nationally Martin is recognized as an expert in the Real Estate industry. Martin is also a Howard Brinton Star, has been interviewed by iSucceed, Millionaire Real Estate Agent Series, and Billion Dollar Agent – Lessons Learned, and is a professional business coach.

The Bouma Group has always set the bar for customer service by providing 100% of their clients with unmatched service and professional courtesy. With our proven track record, attention to detail and solid reputation, we look forward to a great year in 2008, doing what we do best – putting our clients first.

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Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for almost 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

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ANN ARBOR HILLS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 5-bath home under construction walking distance to U of M Campus and Hospitals. Dramatic Arts and Crafts inspired home. Oversized dream kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite, and professional grade appliances, family room with vaulted ceiling, dream master suite, and 3-floor elevator. $999,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GLENNBOROUGH- Incredible 5-bedroom, 6-bath custom-built home overlooking a wonderful pond and natural area. You will be amazed by the design and finished detail of this truly one-of-a-kind home. Features include great room with wall of windows to backyard, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished basement with home theater. $995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

FOX RIDGE – Very special 5-bedroom, 4 H-bath Frank Lloyd Wright inspired 2001 Showcase Entry. You will be impressed by the incredible attention to detail given in this truly one-of-a-kind home. 2.6 acre estate setting overlooking a pond. Interior includes two-story great room with stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Saline Schools. $979,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Magnificent 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built all brick two-story was featured by the Home and Garden Channel. Upgraded features include custom kitchen with granite, cherry paneled den, luxurious first-floor master, bonus room, and finished basement. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. $950,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Your own private estate backing to Peach Mountain. This incredible property is loaded with many unique and top quality amenities. Five-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home features soaring ceilings, upgraded materials, and finished walkout basement. Second detached 3-car garage with apartment above is perfect for cars, boat, hobbies, etc. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PHEASANT HOLLOW – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction just minutes to town. Stately stone exterior, great room with vaulted ceiling and built-ins, dream kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters, and professional grade appliances, luxury first-floor master suite, and screened porch. $695,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK!!! – Rare opportunity, a new home in the heart of Ann Arbor. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home, one block from park. Custom kitchen, granite counters, ample hardwood floors, and luxury master suite with walk-in closet and dream bath. You can still pick your own colors. $695,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Incredible opportunity to own this brand new 5-bedroom, 4-bath home on the #1 fairway at Stonebridge. This home is perfect inside and out with gorgeous golf course views and a partially wooded lot. Interior features two-story family room, gourmet kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo rests on the finest lot in Stonebridge. Enjoy panoramic views of the large pond, twin islands, and #17 fairway from the large deck, screened porch, or brick paver patio. Wonderful interior amenities include cherry kitchen, great room with 10 ft. ceiling, den, great master suite, and finished walkout basement. $519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath builder's model home now available in Legacy Heights. This 2005 Showcase of Homes entry is loaded with custom finishes and features. Cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, large family room, den with built-ins, oversized master suite, and designer décor throughout. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK MEADOWS – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home is just perfect. Incredible setting with oversized yard, extensive landscaping, and large patio. Interior is out of a magazine. Cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass to backyard, and luxurious master suite. You will love it. $434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – OLD WEST SIDE – Completely renovated 3 BR, 2 BA home walking distance to Downtown. This home is loaded with charm and character featuring extensive hardwood floors, update kitchen, and new remodeled master suite with luxury bath and walk-in closet. This is a great home. $374,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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TECUMSEH – Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 3-bath 1800s farmhouse on 15 pastoral acres 10 minutes south of downtown Saline. Featuring heated barn perfect for car storage. Interior has best of old and new with cherry kitchen and Corian counters, hardwood floors, oversized moldings, family room, and luxury master suite. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Brand new 2-bedroom, 2-bath Highpoint Villa loaded with quality features and amenities. Enjoy the carefree lifestyle in this never lived in unit. Highlights include great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, luxury master suite with huge walk-in closet, and view out basement. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE RIDGE – Wonderful 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a peaceful acre lot just minutes from US-23 and Ann Arbor. Spacious yard with ample landscaping, large deck and basketball court. Interior is picture-perfect featuring two-story foyer, maple kitchen, family room with fireplace, and very nice master suite with vaulted ceiling. $279,900 . **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GEORGETOWN – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial is the best home in this popular neighborhood I've ever seen. Every inch is remodeled, updated, and improved. Incredible lot backing to a park with brick paver patio, cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, family room with fireplace, and master suite with remodeled bath. WOW!! $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – MANCHESTER – This 3 BR, 2½ BA condo is one of the true hidden gems to discover. Overlooking the Rasin River, you will not find a more dramatic view of nature, trees, and water. The interior is fabulous with numerous upgrades, custom kitchen, great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo is the best. Enjoy gorgeous views of the pond and open space from the deck. Interior features vaulted ceilings throughout, open kitchen with breakfast bar and extra cabinets, great room has fireplace with custom oak mantel, large dining area, and nice master suite with walk-in closet and bath with 2-person Jacuzzi. $172,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – This 2-bedroom, 1-bath starter home in the Village is just perfect. This home is very desirable featuring a complete interior remodel with fresh paint, new carpet, and extensive crown molding. Other features include oversized 2-car garage, huge fenced backyard, and full basement. $129,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Very sharp 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo, walking distance to downtown Dexter. Great condo with wonderful décor, large master suite, open kitchen, and screened porch. You will love it. $129,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GEDDES LAKE – There is incredible value in this like new 3-bedroom, 2 H-bath pond-front unit. Everything is updated including maple kitchen with upgraded floor and counter tops, new carpet and paint, and updated baths. You will be impressed. $119,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walkout basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE - 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home rests on an acre setting just minutes to US-23. Features include heated stone flooring, dream kitchen with maple cabinets, granite, and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with incredible bath and two walk-in closets, bonus room, finished basement, and 4-car heated garage. WOW! $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $1,000,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4½-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $999,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath hilltop Tudor has been completely renovated inside and out. Incredible grounds with 2/3 acre lot, extensive landscaping, and brick paver patio. Interior features cherry kitchen with granite and Sub-Zero appliances, spacious rooms ooze character, and remodeled master suite with luxury bath. You will love it! $949,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Dramatic 4-bedroom, 3-bath, and 2 half-bath new construction. Complete and ready to go, this home is loaded with only the best in finish and workmanship. Highlights include cherry kitchen with granite and top-end appliances, two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and den with cherry built-ins. $899,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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NE ANN ARBOR – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. $558,800. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $539,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

POLO FIELDS – Exceptional 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home. Exterior has extensive landscaping and multiple oversized patios. Interior features crisp décor, kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counter, large family room with raised ceiling, and luxury master suite. $539,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $425,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK MEADOWS - Gracious custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a spacious one acre walkout lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home is loaded with upgrades including maple kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with crown molding, sun room, den, and luxurious master suite. Great home! $415,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PLEASANT LAKE – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful lakefront settings in Washtenaw County. Enjoy panoramic views of the lake from the this bluff-top setting. Home features many updates including maple kitchen with Corian counters, living room with stone fireplace, and large decks. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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CENTENNIAL FARMS – 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial backing to commons area. Wonderful setting with extensive landscaping, large deck, and great view. Features maple kitchen, first-floor den, large master suite with vaulted ceiling, and finished lower level with rec room, study, bath, and bar. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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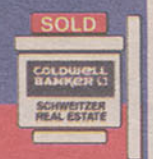

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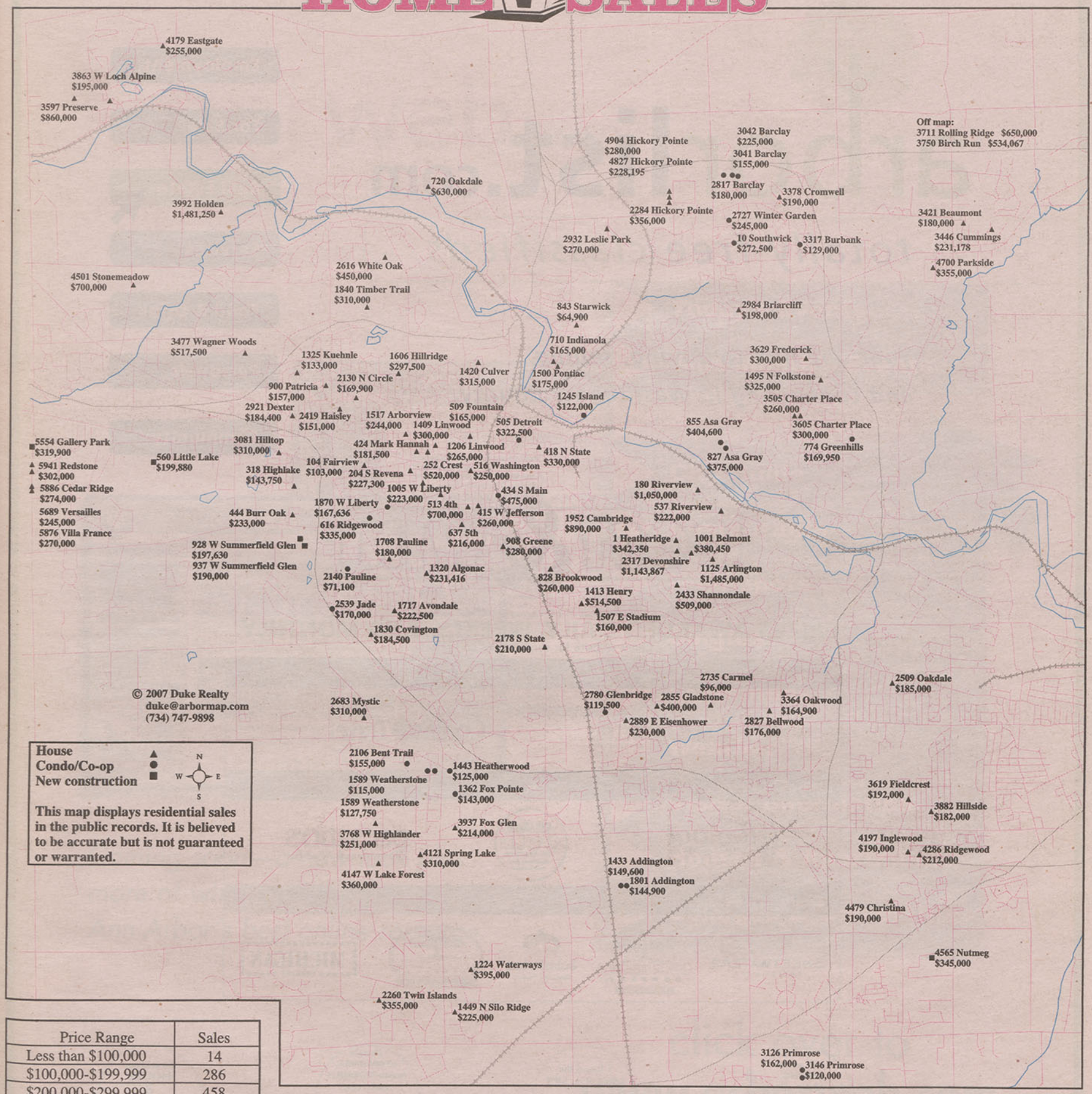

Price Range	Sales
Less than $100,000	14
$100,000-$199,999	286
$200,000-$299,999	458
$300,000-$399,999	252
$400,000-$499,999	94
$500,000-$599,999	69
$600,000-$699,999	36
$700,000-$799,999	17
$800,000-$899,999	15
$900,000-$999,999	4
Over $1,000,000	7
S-F Homes Sold	1,252
Median Price	$260,000
Average Price	$308,000
Sales ($millions)	$386M

Our year-end review of 2007 found that sales of existing single-family homes nearly matched the number of sales in 2006 in the Ann Arbor school district. We counted 1,252 sales versus 1,254 the year before. However, it should be noted that 2007's sales figures were swollen by foreclosures and relocations. Some foreclosures were counted twice—once when the lender took ownership, and then again when the lender sold the property on the market. And some Pfizer relocations were also counted twice—once when the relocator "bought" the house, and again when it was resold to its new resident.

Amid the turmoil, the median price of a single-family home dropped nearly 10 percent, to $260,000 from $288,000 the year before. This is the lowest median we've seen since 2002. Dollar volume also dropped 10 percent, to $386 million.

The increase in foreclosures helps account for a surge in the number of homes selling for less than $100,000. That count jumped to fourteen in 2007 from just three in 2006 (see chart at left; "S-F" means "single-family"). The downshift also was evident on the next rung of the price ladder: the number of homes selling for between $100,000 and $200,000 soared to 286 from 206 in the previous year, as the market adjusted to pressures pushing down prices. And at the high end, just 148 homes sold for more than $500,000, compared to 186 the year before.

—Kevin Duke

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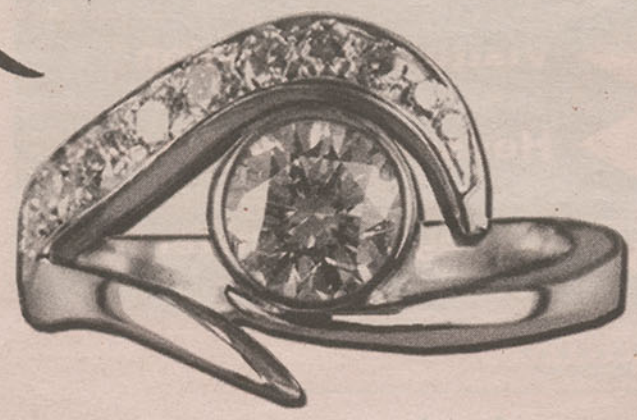

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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

A trio of new pizza places

Pino arrives, Anthony's expands, and an Argiero opens Mama Rosa's

The rest of the economy may be in the doldrums, but Ann Arbor's robust pizza scene is booming. Midu Alsaidy (above) managed pizza places as an EMU student; now he owns Pizza Pino. Michael Argiero (left) grew up in the family restaurant downtown; now he's opened Mama Rosa's—with a little help from its namesake, "Mama Rosa" Argiero. And at South Main Market, Ted Vlachakis (below) has opened his third Anthony's Gourmet Pizza.

Midu Alsaidy's story is familiar to many a degreed Ann Arborite. "While you're a student, you work, and I got caught up working in the restaurant industry," says Alsaidy, thirty-four. "I figured out I had a talent for it, and I thought maybe I ought to go ahead and do it."

In Alsaidy's case, he managed pizzerias to support himself while earning his Bachelor of Science degree at EMU. When he graduated last year, he promptly ditched his diploma and set about opening his own pizza place. **Pizza Pino** (*pino* is Italian for "pine tree") was scheduled to open by the end of January in the former Painters Supply & Equipment space at Liberty and First.

He's coveted the building for years. "Every time I drove by, I thought, 'That would be a great place [for a restaurant],'" he says. But it already had a tenant—Three Oaks Real Estate moved in after Painters Supply moved out. Then he got lucky. Just about the time he decided to take the plunge on a pizzeria, he drove by and saw a For Lease sign. Three Oaks had moved out, and his dream space was suddenly available.

But making a restaurant out of a building that had been a gas station, paint store, and real estate office meant a major overhaul. "It was a huge, huge effort," Alsaidy says.

He hired his own architect and contractor to do the work, and it shows. The walls are painted golden wheat and olive; the windows and doorways are trimmed, and the counters faced, with birch and poplar. Everything about Pizza Pino, from the look of the interior to the layout of the menu to the design of the logo, is well thought out and beautifully executed.

The menu is equally ambitious. A list of specialty pizzas reminiscent of California Pizza Kitchen includes *rustica* (fresh spinach, roasted eggplant, Roma tomatoes, grilled onions, pesto sauce, feta, and mozzarella) and seafood marinara (billed as "the real deal," with large shrimp, calamari, mussels, garlic, and herbs, with or without cheese). Specialty pizzas start at around $10 for a ten-inch round. There are also full entrees like chicken Parmesan and shrimp scampi, starting at $10, plus calzones, subs, and deli sandwiches in the $4–$7 range. Soups are made from scratch daily.

Between the main room and two small dining rooms, there's seating for around fifty people—but there's no waitstaff. You order at the counter and seat yourself. Alsaidy also offers pickup and delivery.

The elegant circular logo may be the most ambitious thing of all. At the top, over "Pizza Pino" and "The Great Taste of Italy," is "Ann Arbor." Did he mean to give the impression that the Pizza Pinos are legion—with this being simply the new Ann Arbor location? Alsaidy laughs: "Exactly! That's what I wanted!" He has long-range plans for Pizza Pino, and for the logo: "Someday I want them to say Chicago, San Francisco . . ."

Pizza Pino, 221 West Liberty, 945–2289. 10:30 a.m.–4 a.m. daily.

Anthony's Gourmet Pizza doesn't aspire to be a national chain, but the original store, which opened in 1988 in George-

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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town Mall, has slowly and gently tripled in volume, like a good pizza dough. Ted and Beth Vlachakis opened their second Anthony's a few years ago in Maple Miller Plaza; a third, which had been slowly gestating at the South Main Market for nearly a year, finally opened its doors the last week of December.

Anthony's serves a lush and sybaritic pizza, but it has never been about lush, sybaritic digs. Its stores are essentially takeout-delivery joints, with a few tables and chairs for the stranded, but the new location also has a little lounge area with a couch and easy chairs that you might even call cozy.

The delivery menu at the new place offers the same cherished local classics you'll find at the other locations: Chicago-style stuffed, deep dish, Sicilian deep dish, or round, all of which can be ingredient-nudged in several logical ethnic directions, as well as the corny old illogical Hawaiian one. The South Main Market and Maple Miller Plaza stores also offer a few additional items, like the personal pizza, mainly invented for local foot traffic.

Mama Rosa's is a totally different experience from either Argiero's restaurant. "It's not cuisine. It's not a ristorante," *says Michael Argiero. "It's a hustle-bustle world, and everybody's got a time factor."*

Anthony's is still very much a family-scale and neighborhood-oriented business. Eighteen-year-old Elizabeth Vlachakis was working the counter of the new location a week after opening. She wasn't even born yet when her folks opened the Georgetown Anthony's, and she was stumped by the question of how the new store has altered delivery-area boundaries. "That's a very good question. I'm not sure myself. Well," she improvised slowly, flashing a brilliant dimpled smile, "this would be the place to call if you're in this neighborhood, or near this neighborhood."

A note on that original Georgetown location: Beth Vlachakis, who was behind its counter the same day Elizabeth was handling the South Main Market traffic, wishes on no uncertain terms that the media would stop printing stories that Georgetown Mall is closing (the Observer has printed no such story). She says Anthony's has no plans to leave Georgetown; in fact, she's signed a lease through 2011. The owner (Harbor Properties of Detroit) is fixing up the mall, probably to sell it, she says, and Kroger, the main anchor, has also signed a lease through 2011. Anthony's is intensely loyal to the Georgetown

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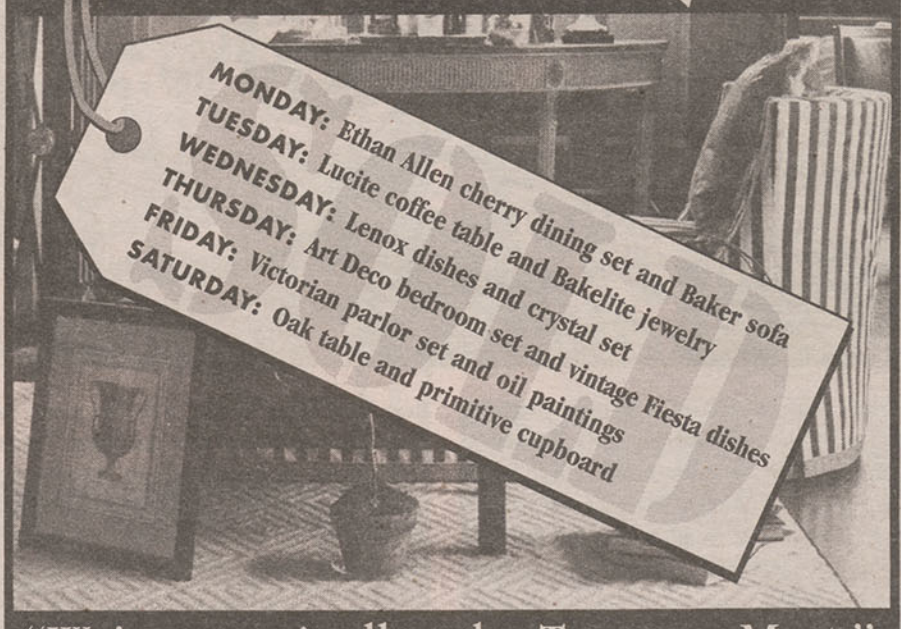
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neighborhood and mall, and Beth firmly declined any further comment on record, saying that they'd all been through enough.

Anthony's Gourmet Pizza, 621 South Main, 995–5911. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 2–10 p.m.

Michael Argiero closed Argiero's Pasta and Pizza in Dexter last summer with plans to reopen closer to Ann Arbor, but there was a catch. "I can't open an Argiero's within six miles of the other one," he says. The "other one" is the original Argiero's Italian Restaurant on Detroit Street; Michael was part owner until he sold out to his brothers Sam and Carmino in 2003. A no-compete clause was part of the deal, so when he found a new space on Jackson Road inside the six-mile limit, he needed a new name.

Mama Rosa's, scheduled to open in early February in Jackson Center across from the Quality 16, conjures the Argiero's legacy without using the family name. "Mama" Rosa Argiero and "Papa" Tony Argiero opened the original Argiero's back in 1977. She also developed most of the recipes that both restaurants still use today.

Mama Rosa's menu looks a lot like the one at Argiero's Pasta and Pizza—lots of hearty Italian food like pasta and pizza, along with sandwiches, subs, salads, and more, plus a smattering of new items like calzones and deep-dish Chicago pizza, most in the $4–$7 range. But the setup is very different. The Dexter Argiero's was a destination restaurant with waitstaff, a place to go for a leisurely meal. Mama Rosa's isn't. "It's going to be quick service," Michael Argiero says. "You come up to the counter, get it, and go." He expects the bulk of his business to be takeout and delivery, but he can seat thirty.

The forty-three-year-old Argiero could have opened another Argiero's outside that six-mile no-compete radius, but he was ready for a change, and he was tired of competing with his own last name. "This keeps us separate," he says. "[People] will know that Mama Rosa's is my place."

Argiero adds that menu aside, Mama Rosa's is a totally different experience from either Argiero's restaurant. "I wanted to leave it simple," he says. "I'm just Italian food. It's not cuisine. It's not a *ristorante*." In other words, don't expect a laid-back, Old World bistro: "It's a hustle-bustle world, and everybody's got a time factor."

But like Argiero's, Mama Rosa's is still a family business. Argiero co-owns the place with his uncle, Luigi Guarascio. Argiero will do most of the cooking, but he'll have a little help in the kitchen—from Mama Rosa, no less. "She'll come in every once in a while to help out," he says, adding that she still helps out occasionally at the downtown location, too. Unlike Michael, Mama Rosa isn't subject to a no-compete clause.

Mama Rosa's, 3901 Jackson Road (Jackson Center), 913–5555. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 4–8:30 p.m.

Sheelan opens at Stone Plaza

Party clothes meet hijabs

"Excuse my broken English. My daughters call me Borat," says Lebanese-born Joumana Chaaban, whose rippling musical Arabic accent bears no resemblance at all to Borat's glottal yowl. The delicate, graceful, and petite Chaaban, who also looks nothing like comedian Sacha Baron Cohen (What are those kids talking about? Did they see the movie?), is the manager of **Sheelan,** a women's clothing store in Stone Plaza.

The little shopping mall at Stone School Road and Ellsworth has now accumulated a broad cross-section of practical shops, many of them distinctly non-generic. Sheelan joins the Mediterranean Market, Ahmo's Deli, the Import Kitchen-

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Sheelan manager Joumana Chaaban sells European-flavored fashions, sportswear, and special occasion clothing, most of it imported from Turkey.

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ware and Dollar Store, MisSaigon, Chicken House, and Elite Cleaners, Ann Arbor's only "green" wet cleaner, plus a few others. The businesses work together as a pleasant mix of stop-and-grab and browsing spaces.

Stone Plaza and many of its tenant stores are owned by the extended Issa family, an anchor of the local Muslim community. Sheelan is one of the Issa-owned stores, and Chaaban, who emigrated from Lebanon seven years ago, is a family friend who jumped at this job opportunity "because I'm bored at home by myself." She's an ecumenical and cosmopolitan shopkeeper, describing the pile of hijabs on a back table as "scarves." When asked about the colorful little packets piled near them she enthusiastically opens one, revealing a babushka-like head covering.

Chaaban calls many of the pieces "sport chic," and they're touched by a sort of aggressive femininity and opulence that does suggest a more European definition of sport: baccarat at Monte Carlo or après-ski at Gstaad, perhaps.

"These you put under the scarf, and they are amazingly nice," she says. What are they called? "Oh, underpieces for a hijab—that's good enough in English," she says cheerfully. "We have very nice hijabs. I was watching the Arabic TV channel and I saw a designer of hijabs. Whatever she displayed on TV, we have it in the store."

Most of Sheelan's clothing is Western style, though. Chaaban describes the store's market niche as "more European than a lot of clothes you see here," and shows a catalog from Turkish wholesaler Bezek, the source of most of her inventory. She calls many of the pieces "sport chic," and they're touched by a sort of aggressive femininity and opulence that does suggest a more European definition of sport: baccarat at Monte Carlo or après-ski at Gstaad, perhaps. "We have a lot of party clothes too," she offers as an alternative characterization for her store, perhaps unsure the sport-chic idea will resonate with Ann Arbor shoppers (she gets a lot of customers from Detroit). "And we don't like to depend on Muslim women," adds Chaaban, who does not want Sheelan branded as a hijab shop. "Actually I'm not a Muslim," she says. "My cousin's wife is Jewish. My uncle is Brazilian. My sister married an American guy. My brother married an American girl."

Sheelan, 4069 Stone School Road (Stone Plaza), 477–5691. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. & Sun. noon–5 p.m.

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O08.02

Avon comes to Briarwood

Along with Swarovski

Kim Alexander gives free facials at her new **Avon** store in Briarwood. Her husband, Kirk, says they're not a marketing shtick—she just likes to do them. But first you have to catch her, which proved difficult in December and January. Maybe people who announce at the height of stress and party season that they love to give free facials quickly find they need a place to hide; at any rate, Kim Alexander remained elusive.

Kirk and Kim, who is a nurse turned esthetician turned Avon lady, recently moved here from Las Vegas to take care of Kirk's ailing father, and Kim talked Avon into letting her start one of the cosmetic merchant's somewhat uncommon storefronts. (Avon, like Tupperware and Fuller Brush, made its bones through direct marketing by door-to-door representatives—it has only about seventy stores nationwide.)

A lot of people swear by Avon products, but most of them are middle-aged women, and Avon has worked hard recently to appeal to a younger generation—with, for example, its line of products for teens, called Mark. "People buy, like, ten of these at a time," employee Aishi Khan says of the $5 interchangeable tubes of lip gloss, mascara, and eye shadow that go by the suggestive name of Hook-Up (ostensibly because they can be joined together with a free plastic widget). She sells a lot of Avon men's cologne to eighteen- and nineteen-year-olds: "It's cheaper, and it smells awesome."

Khan walked us through Avon's Anew products, which are organized by decade: there are different sets of preparations for women in their thirties, forties, and fifties. And when things get really desperate, there's the Oprah-endorsed Anew Ultimate day and night cream—at around $100 for a six-week supply. "But it's been compared to products that cost seven hundred dollars," Khan interjects, adding assuredly, "and if you don't see a change, we will absolutely refund your money."

Avon, Briarwood (JCPenney corridor), 827–2866. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Swarovski, one of the most famous names in crystal, also recently opened a store in Briarwood. Since the nineteenth century, the Austrian company has been the industry leader in industrial processes and techniques that make glass really, really sparkly by adding lead (the definition-for-dummies of crystal). Though the company is renowned for luxury pieces, its less-well-known products (certainly not on display here) include such Home Shopping Network howlers as mood rings and cubic zirconia. The Briarwood store sells Swarovski's uniquely glimmering crystal jewelry, including tiaras and hair bands, watches, and ornaments like the brilliant tropical fish. The fish have such an eerie verisimilitude, it would be fun to stock a tank with them and watch people's puzzled faces when they didn't move.

Swarovski Crystal, Briarwood (Von Maur corridor), 662–0818. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

A Gallery (that's the name of the store, not a generic reference) bounced around Briarwood from one kiosk to another for a couple of years before leasing a storefront in the Von Maur wing in late 2006. The staff moved out last November, and it wasn't entirely their idea.

They were doing a brisk business in framed prints and other decorative wall art, including countless pen-and-ink variations of Al Pacino as drug lord Tony Montana in the 1983 movie *Scarface* (what *is* it with that movie and framed prints?). But when Bath & Body Works across the corridor remodeled last year, it wanted A Gallery's space for extra storage, and A Gallery had to find a new home.

It happens all the time, says Heidi Bias, head of Briarwood's local-leasing department. Stores on leases of one month to two years, like A Gallery, are considered "temporary"; stores with leases lasting three to fifteen years, like Bath & Body Works, are considered "permanent." And permanent stores take precedence. A Gallery wound up decamping to Westland Mall in Westland, where it's back in a kiosk. Owner Joy Xu declined to comment on the move.

Briefly Noted

Big George's moves a lot of appliances, and it's never had the space to properly deal with the fallout: the scratched and dented, the discontinued, the shopworn display models. So the store rented the old Arbor Farms building on West Stadium and opened **Big George's Clearance Mart** there in mid-November. "We're just trying it out," says marketing director Geralyn Lemanski. Big George's is expanding into a lot of new turf lately: it also bought out Witbeck appliance stores in Harbor Springs and West Bloomfield.

"No frills" is an understatement: it's a big parking lot of washers, dryers, dishwashers, fridges, range hoods, and other large appliances, which are discounted 10 to 60 percent. Salesperson Diana Jones explains where some of the best deals are to be found. The 60 percent off, she says, is likely to be on the merchandise with slight cosmetic damage, but you can also find big discounts on some discontinued but perfectly pristine models. "There are some really good deals on high-end stuff like built-ins," she says. "People are always looking for a good deal on built-ins, like refrigerators or double ovens."

Jones says that the merchandise changes every day and that everything is tested and checked to make sure it works properly. Everything is sold with a new manufacturer's warranty, "as if new."

Big George's Clearance Mart, 2215

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Sample foods that promote heart health as well as romance!

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Saturday, January 16
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
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Customer Appreciation
Saturday, February 23
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Join us as we show our appreciation! Samples, recipes, and more.

Pantry Makeover Tours & Drawing
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10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
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Marketplace Changes *continued*

West Stadium Boulevard, 669–9645. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Closed Sun.

❧❧❧

There used be a doorway in the wall that separated **Pen In Hand** stationery from Sottini's Sub Shop, and whoever walled it over way back when didn't bother to soundproof it. Pen In Hand owner Donna Tope says that wasn't a problem until a bunch of boisterous young men started using the sub shop as a hangout.

"I can't tell you the number of times I would have to go over . . . and ask them to please stop dropping the F-bomb at the top of their lungs while I was working with a family choosing bar or bat mitzvah invitations or trying to do wording for a memorial service," Tope says. "Even inside our shop . . . you could hear every word."

"That's bullcrap," says Sottini's manager Nash Fahra. "She came in and complained [about the noise] a few times, and we had to let her know that this is not a library and I can't control my customers." Fahra, whose family has owned Sottini's since 1990, concedes that things get noisy at lunch—but he insists, "My customers are all business professionals."

Another South Fourth Avenue business owner backs up Tope's version. "They're pretty obnoxious," she says about some of the people that hang at Sottini's. "But it's not like there's much you can do about it." She's far enough away that it doesn't affect her business too much, but she feels bad for Tope: "I'm really sorry Pen In Hand is gone. It was a great store."

Tope says the rowdiness next door was the main reason she decided not to renew her lease. At the end of December she closed the store and moved the business to a studio near Burns Park, where she sees clients by appointment only. She's discontinued the fine stationery, calligraphy accessories, and other merchandise she sold downtown to focus on custom design and calligraphy for business and personal stationery and on special-occasion announcements. "We've gone from a retail business to a custom-personal-service business," Tope says.

So far, though, her customers are sticking with her. "We have a huge, huge number of loyal clients," she says. "They've been with us through weddings, births, all kinds of wonderful occasions."

Tope used to be one of those loyal clients. When original owner Hillary Murt opened the store in 1994, Tope, a lawyer, and her friend Ann Genovese, a retired teacher, fell in love with it. When Murt decided to sell in 2000, the two women bought it together. Genovese bowed out in 2004 for personal reasons, leaving Tope the sole owner.

Tope now divides her time between the business and her law practice. A solo practitioner, she did pro-bono work for Habitat for Humanity for six years. And she's a relentless civic booster who spent twelve years on the city planning commission. That made leaving downtown even harder. "It was really neat to see Fourth Avenue come back from what it had been twenty-some years ago," she says. "We loved being part of the scene."

She hopes to be part of the scene again someday, but until she finds a suitable (and relatively soundproof) retail space, Tope will stay on the design side of the business. "That was really what people came to expect and appreciate from Pen In Hand," she says. "And now we're able to do it in a much more pleasant environment."

Pen In Hand, 662–7276, peninhand.biz. Open by appointment.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column covered four retail and restaurant openings. Only one of those businesses is still open—**Bob Perani's Hockey World,** the pro shop inside the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

One of them barely opened at all. Conceived as an upscale supper club by Amer's Deli owner Amer Bathish, the **Screaming Dog** went through a long gestation on Ashley before opening briefly, being retooled as Amer's First Street Grill, and then closing altogether (the space is now occupied by Live at PJ's). **La Mirage,** an upscale tobacconist shop on East Liberty, and **W. A. Bowman,** a mother-and-son bakery on Fourth Avenue, are both long gone.

February 1998 survival rate: 25 percent

❧❧❧

Five years ago this month, this column featured three newcomers. One of them, Japanese restaurant **Totoro,** is still open (see Restaurant Reviews, p. 103). **Taste,** a short-lived restaurant opened by Woodie Thomas in Braun Court, garnered enthusiastic response from local foodies but didn't attract enough of them to keep the doors open. **The Scrap-Yard,** on North Zeeb—not a metal-reclamation center but a source of scrapbooking supplies—didn't make it either.

February 2003 survival rate: 33 percent

❧❧❧

One year ago this month, we wrote about four new businesses, all of them still going: Dixboro coffeehouse **MoonWinks Cafe, Primo Coffee** on East Liberty, part-time art gallery **Eccentric Artist Agency,** and **Tree City Diapers** on Jackson Road, which sells toys, cloth diapers, diaper covers, slings, and other "attachment parenting" accessories.

February 2007 survival rate: 100 percent

❧❧❧

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

The Zingerman's Times

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Held Over by Popular Demand!

roaster's pick

Kenyan Coffee "Picked" Again

Because *Times* readers just can't get enough of the Kenyan brew that debuted last month with Zingerman's, Roastmaster Allen Leibowitz has carried over this very special, light-to-medium bodied coffee that tastes uniquely of black currant. Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig calls it "fantastic!" Available for a limited time by the cup, pound or press pot at Zingerman's Deli and Roadhouse.

Enter to Win Sandwiches for Life from Zingerman's Deli!

And help raise funds for the Peace Neighborhood Center

The Deli invites *Times* readers to come in between February 15 and March 13 to put down $1 and vote for their favorite Zingerman's sandwiches. Proceeds benefit the Peace Neighborhood Center, a local organization dedicated to promoting community involvement. Each vote will be entered into a drawing for Zingerman's sandwiches for life!

On March 13, 6-9 pm, the "best sandwich" will be crowned at a special $100 per-person Deli tasting tournament with Al Newman, the PNC board member and Zingerman's scholar who has eaten his way through the entire Deli sandwich menu.

Ballot box stuffing encouraged, so stop at Zingerman's Deli to vote early and often!

Zingerman's Roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 734.663.FOOD
Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 734.663.DELI
Zingerman's Catering and Events	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 734.930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.0500
Zingerman's Coffee Company	422 Detroit St. 734.929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

italian (food) ambassador to visit zingerman's delicatessen

As they prepare to celebrate Italian foods in February, Zingerman's Deli will host Sardinian chef and culinary emissary Efisio Farris, author of the recent *New York Times* notable book, *Sweet Myrtle and Bitter Honey.*

Mr. Farris, who currently promotes Sardinian cuisine at his restaurant in Texas, appears at a tasting and book-signing on February 20 to highlight the wide range of Sardinian foods available at Zingerman's Deli, such as extra special olive oils, cheeses, pastas and honey.

Reports indicate one of the more exotic Sardinian foods that is causing a "buzz" throughout the local community is the abbamele, a unique sweet topping made by pressing the honeycomb that is left from the hive after the honey has been extracted. The residual honey and pollen are cooked down to a thick, molasses-like syrup that sources say is terrific on toast and yogurt, or by the spoonful, straight from the jar.

Investigators say Mr. Farris has on his restaurant's lunch menu an amazing sandwich made with fresh mozzarella and prosciutto, a bit of arugula and abbamele.

Reporters from the *Times* culture desk urge travelers to the Deli to "*chieda un gusto*" (ask for a taste) and experience the hidden world of Sardinian cuisine.

Chef Efisio Farris leads *Times* readers on a tasting tour through "Sardina, The Flavors of Sweet Myrtle and Bitter Honey," at Zingerman's Delicatessen, Wednesday, February 20, 7pm. Cost is $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Call 734.663.DELI to reserve! Check out www.zingermansdeli.com for info about other upcoming events.

Zingerman's BAKEHOUSE

area couples celebrate the big day with zingerman's

Zingerman's Bakehouse Wedding Open House

Sunday, February 17 • 11am-4pm • Free admission!

Sources confirm that couples in various stages of planning their weddings are eagerly anticipating this special Open House event, and not just to sample imagination-defying wedding cakes that really do taste as good they look.

Insiders reveal experts from Zingerman's Bakehouse, Deli and Roadhouse are going to be on hand to discuss exclusive, full-flavored catering options, custom gift baskets for out-of-town guests, unique thank you gifts, original party favors, full-service space for hosting rehearsal dinners and wedding showers, and much, much more.

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early birds flock to Zingerman's Roadhouse

Breakfast seating now available!

Starting as early as 7am, Zingerman's Roadhouse is the place to see and be seen, according to *Times* trend-spotters. Insiders suggest the craze started this fall when the Roadshow take-out trailer was attached to the westside restaurant. The Roadhouse has since become a very fashionable morning meeting place where *Times* readers can enjoy their favorite Zingerman's coffee drinks, fresh-baked pastries from the Bakehouse, and a place to sit (as well as free wireless internet access!). Find out more at www.zingermansroadhouse.com.

february declared 'chocolate gelato month'

Zingerman's Creamery

Experts urge folks to stop by Zingerman's Creamery to ask for a taste of limited edition chocolate gelato flavors, all made with Scharffen Berger chocolate and the finest ingredients available. Highlights from the February gelato menu include Chocolate Balsamic Strawberry (which in itself is a traditional Italian treat), Turtle (made with Georgia pecans and dulch de leche from Argentina) and Rocky Ride (packed with vanilla AND chocolate marshmallows handmade at the Bakehouse). Also featured are classics such as John Do Ya? (Gianduja), a traditional gelato flavor of chocolate and Italian hazelnuts, as well as Chocolate Heat, inspired by the great chocolate of Mexico. This one is a blend of dark chocolate and cinnamon, ancho chile and just enough cayenne to make it dangerous.

Times readers should remember that February is the shortest month, so time to enjoy these special flavors – also available at the Deli's Next Door cafe and the Roadhouse– is especially limited. Stop by now!

extra! extra! special for times readers!

***Times* readers are invited to celebrate Chocolate Month at Zingerman's Creamery with a free 4 oz. cup of gelato. Offer good with this coupon, February 8-10, redeemable ONLY at Zingerman's Creamery on Plaza Dr.**

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February 1 - 29

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wednesday	11am - 10pm
thursday	11am - 10pm
friday	11am - 11pm
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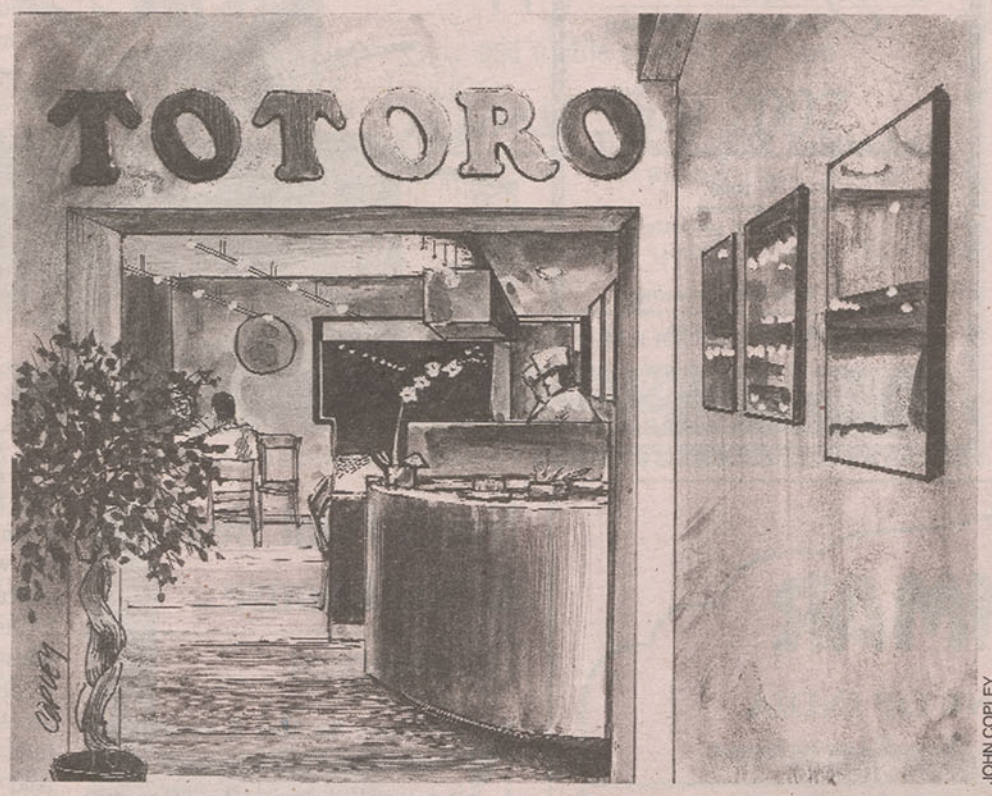

JOHN COPLEY

Maybe it's the contrast, especially on a winter's day. There's that bone-chilling gray outside, and then you pass through a vaguely seedy hallway shared with a Coney joint and a body piercing parlor. By the time you reach Totoro, the sleek, warm interior feels like a refuge, appealing instantly with strong lines, gleaming hardwood floors, and deep orange walls. A seven-seat granite-and-rosewood sushi bar stretches along one side of the main dining room, with bright, artistic displays of fresh fish. Two chefs work the sushi line.

I was still shivering a little as I settled in at my table. Seeing this, the hostess quickly brought me a mug of steaming *genmaicha*. Ah, that's better. Now all I need are my noodles.

Japan may be on the other side of the world, but its northern reaches are at the same latitude as Lower Michigan, and the Japanese understand frigid, wet winters. Totoro's cold-chasers include seven variations of noodle dishes. Good: the tempura soba in a light broth sprinkled with sesame seeds and almost impossibly thin slices of green onion over a tangle of squiggly brown buckwheat soba noodles, garnished with a pair of long skinny prawns crispy-fried tempura style. Better: the *sansai* udon, with a similar broth and garnishes over slurpy white ropes of udon wheat noodles and a poached egg, served in a small iron pot to hold in all the warmth until it is transferred to the diner. Some restaurants serve the tempura on the side; I used to prefer it that way, but now I see Totoro's wisdom in inserting it into the soup, because it actually adds some element of flavor to the subtle broth. And since not all of the shrimp is submerged, you still get some of that appealing crunchy texture.

At lunch, noodles are all I need, even though, like all entrees at Totoro, they come with a salad beforehand. Here that means a halfhearted little bowl of iceberg, julienne carrots, and cabbage, with a slice of something that resembles a tomato and a dab of gingery dressing. For more interesting greenery, forgo the pallid salad and order *goma ae*, cold mounds of boiled spinach with a sugary peanut-sesame dressing (I blunt the sauce's sweet edge by adding a dash of soy). Totoro's tuna tataki appetizer, seared and sliced with a delicate sauce, is a good interpretation of a great concept. A fine little starter on the meatier side is the bamboo steamer basket of the head-clearing wasabi shumai, five mini-bundles of ground pork with a heavy dose of wasabi root. The *gyoza* dumplings are exceptional, with a light dough carefully pressed around juicy minced-meat filling and then perfectly sautéed.

Totoro's array of sashimi, maki, and nigiri sushi makes it a popular (and sometimes raucous) destination for students and faculty—and it's generally cited among the city's best. I'm not making any final pronouncements in the maki-a-maki contest, but after a dinner that consisted mainly of various rolls, I can recommend a couple of artistic standouts. The "black dragon" takes its bold personality from the grilled eel riding on the back of rolled rice and its beastly form from tempura-fried shrimp that provide the "head" and "tail." The "caterpillar" is covered in a layer of avocado carefully carved in ridges to resemble its namesake (at the risk of being unappetizing, think giant hornworm, that thing that eats tomato plants). The avocado layer provides an initial luscious buttery mouth-feel before you get down to the business of the spicy tuna inside.

I like the "crunch crunch roll" too, although it should be the "crunch crunch pop roll," with the crunches coming from whole tempura shrimp and extra tempura crispy bits inside and the pop provided by the bursting of tiny pearls of *masago* roe on top. This slim-line roll also had a tactical advantage over those tasty but oversize maki that require such complex logistical considerations for the plate-to-mouth move: do I disassemble this or just open wide and hope for the best? (By the way, it is acceptable to eat sushi with your fingers, but not sashimi. And apparently it's a huge insult to sushi chefs to mix wasabi into your shoyu dipping sauce. To all past and future chefs: Sorry, but I love my soy wasabied.) In contrast to the wild rolls, the *toro* nigiri dazzles with simplicity: a one-bite oblong of rice, a dab of wasabi, and a rectangle of velvety pink tuna.

I generally shy away from dessert at Asian restaurants. Who wants sweets after all the salty-savories? (I think even those little Andes mints they give you with the bill abruptly shut down the taste buds.) But when I saw the students at the neighboring table eating tempura ice cream, the weirdness was irresistible. This dessert turned out to be one of those semiabominations that combine East and West in an interesting and not entirely awful way. It's a bit like a huge but very light warm doughnut (the tempura shell) filled with cold, hard red-bean ice cream. For overkill, the plate was garnished with a mountain range of sweet whipped cream whose frothy peaks were marked by rivulets of chocolate sauce.

The servers, who appear to be about the same age as the largely student clientele, are uniformly friendly and conscientious. The kitchen backed up one busy evening when we waited grumpily for appetizers (in vain, as it turned out), but that seems to have been an aberration. On other visits, meals were perfectly paced and servers attentive in this surprising little corner of our city.

Totoro Japanese Restaurant
215 South State **302–3511**

Mon.–Sat. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 4:30–9:30 p.m.

Appetizers $1.50–$8.50, noodle & rice dishes $6.95–$11.95, entrees & bentos $10.50–$18.95, sushi & sashimi combinations $6.50–$50, sushi à la carte $1.75–$10.95, desserts $2.50–$4.95

Part of the dining room is accessible via a ramp at the rear entrance. Restroom access from the lower dining room only.

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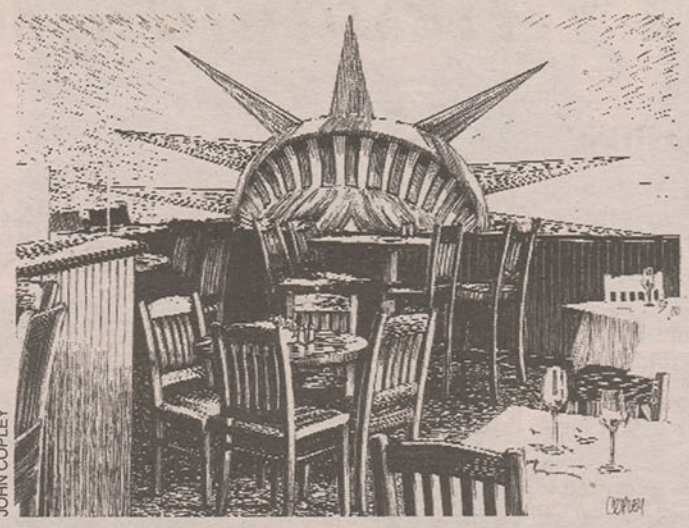

JOHN COPLEY

North Point Seafood & Steakhouse

All-American

North Point Seafood & Steakhouse, which opened in Dexter last spring, is a creation of Mark Perry, Bob Heebner, and Wally and Cindy MacNeil (the MacNeils also own Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack in Saline). It's easy to see parallels to Mac's: both are casual, all-American restaurants in historic small towns. In North Point's case, the setting begins with the stately brick facade of the Monument Building—a graceful complement to the village's historic downtown—and continues into an expansive dining room flooded with natural light. The walls have a tranquil color palette, tables are perfectly spaced, and even when the place is busy, sound levels remain effortlessly conversational. There are interesting touches for the eye, like an oversize moody mural by local artist Kathy Lorenz in the bar. Overall, though, the scene hits the amiable middle; it's not designed to challenge or transport you.

The same applies to the menu, most of which covers familiar surf-and-turf territory with an occasional pasta side trip. Among the high points of this easily accessible landscape was a wonderful starter of steamed mussels, plump and gorgeous in a broth redolent of herbs and wine, perfect for sopping up with crusty bread (a pity the bread here was not quite up to this task). The oysters Rockefeller were very good also—exquisitely fresh oysters blanketed with finely chopped spinach and a dab of silky hollandaise. Chicken spring rolls, on the other hand, were soggy with oil and accompanied by a sauce that tasted like ordinary bottled soy with bits of ginger. Salads were uneven. On one visit, the purist in me was annoyed by the absence of croutons and the presence of mixed baby lettuces alongside the romaine in the Caesar, although a rich garlicky dressing and long curls of Parmesan almost made up for those lapses. On the next try, that Parmesan was gone, but croutons made an appearance alongside carefully arranged hearts of romaine, and only romaine. The house salad combined a retro wedge of iceberg with thinly sliced onions and a tasteless tomato. Two questions here: Why look to the 1950s for salad inspiration? And why do restaurants feel compelled to keep serving tomatoes in midwinter?

North Point Seafood & Steakhouse
8031 Main, Dexter 424–2700

Mon.–Thurs. 4–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 4–11 p.m., Sun. 4–8:30 p.m.

Appetizers $7.95–$10.95, soups & salads $3.25–$5.95, entrees $17.95–$35.95, sandwiches & entree salads $8.95–$14.95, desserts $4.95–$5.95

Fully disability friendly

The main courses peaked at the spectacular pork chops, perfectly juicy and swirling with complementary flavors—rosemary, a syrupy balsamic drizzle, and a scoop of sweetish apple chutney. Generally we had good luck with the unadorned classics, such as a macho rib eye with a crosshatched exterior and rosy interior. Similarly, cornmeal-crusted fried scallops from the list of fresh specials hit the mark—a half dozen succulent ocean scallops served over an ideal counterpoint of unadorned steamed greens. However, ambitious nostalgia dishes, like the steak Diane and fillet of beef Oscar, were disappointing. While both arrived cooked as ordered, the Oscar was topped with stringy crabmeat, and the Diane was drowned in a sort of mushroom gravy.

Veggie sides are à la carte at $4–$5, though most entrees come with a choice of rice or potato variations (the rich garlic mashers easily trump the sodden steak-fry logs). All dishes were carefully arranged, but the heavy-handed parsley-confetti garnish on nearly every plate approached bizarre; only the desserts escaped. Among these, we liked the deeply fudgy chocolate torte and a perky pecan pie much more than the Key lime pie, which had an off-putting, vaguely baconlike flavor.

Most main-course dishes are priced from the high teens to the mid-twenties, but North Point is aiming for a more inclusive price point with a back page of "lighter fare"—a rough dozen sandwiches and entree salads in the $9–$15 range—and a kid menu for $5.95. That's the kind of thing that can attract families and regulars to supplement the occasional big-night-outers. Another is the relaxed but attentive service—cheerful, precise, and perfectly paced on three visits. On each of those, we found ourselves lingering over

coffee—it's that comfortable. But although North Point showed terrific potential with dishes like the pork chops, I wasn't bowled over by the food, all in all. I found myself wishing for more consistency, focus, and personality from the kitchen. That may come with time, but for now North Point is at the very least a reliably easy night out—and, occasionally, a delicious one.

—Bix Engels

❧❧❧

Send quips, tips, and comments on local restaurants to the Bix Tip Line at bixtips@comcast.net.

table talk

On hearing about the proposed University Village development on South University, many local wine lovers must have thought first, "What about the **Village Corner**?"

That store—with its mix of groceries, beer, hard liquor, cigars, a well-stocked news rack, and a spectacular, 5,000-bottle selection of wine—has defined the intersection of South University and Forest for thirty-eight years. But if the new student-housing complex goes up, the Village Corner building will have to come down.

VC owner Dick Scheer says not to worry, though: "We're not going to disappear. We plan to be the Village Corner for many more years."

Scheer figures the mechanics of getting such a big project off the ground give him some breathing room (the developers say they want to begin construction in January 2010). "Should it be approved, we'll have to temporarily relocate and then come back into the new site," he says. But though he's "been aware of the project for several months" and "been in communication" with the developers, he has no firm plans yet for an interim location.

The wine collection accounts for only about 30 percent of the Village Corner's sales, but it accounts for all of the store's international reputation. Scheer is director of the Ann Arbor Wine Club and of the largest Tasters Guild International chapter in the world (500 members).

His career in wine began in 1964 at the Campus Corner (at Packard and State). Since acquiring the Village Corner in 1970, he has expanded it twice to its current 5,500 square feet. Previously the building housed Witham's Drug Store, and Scheer says the Witham heirs still own it.

He sounds less than thrilled about moving, even temporarily. "We would just as soon have business as usual," he says. But with customers from "all over the country and all over the world," he adds, "we're not necessarily linked to that corner. I'm not ready to stop selling wine."

—B. E.

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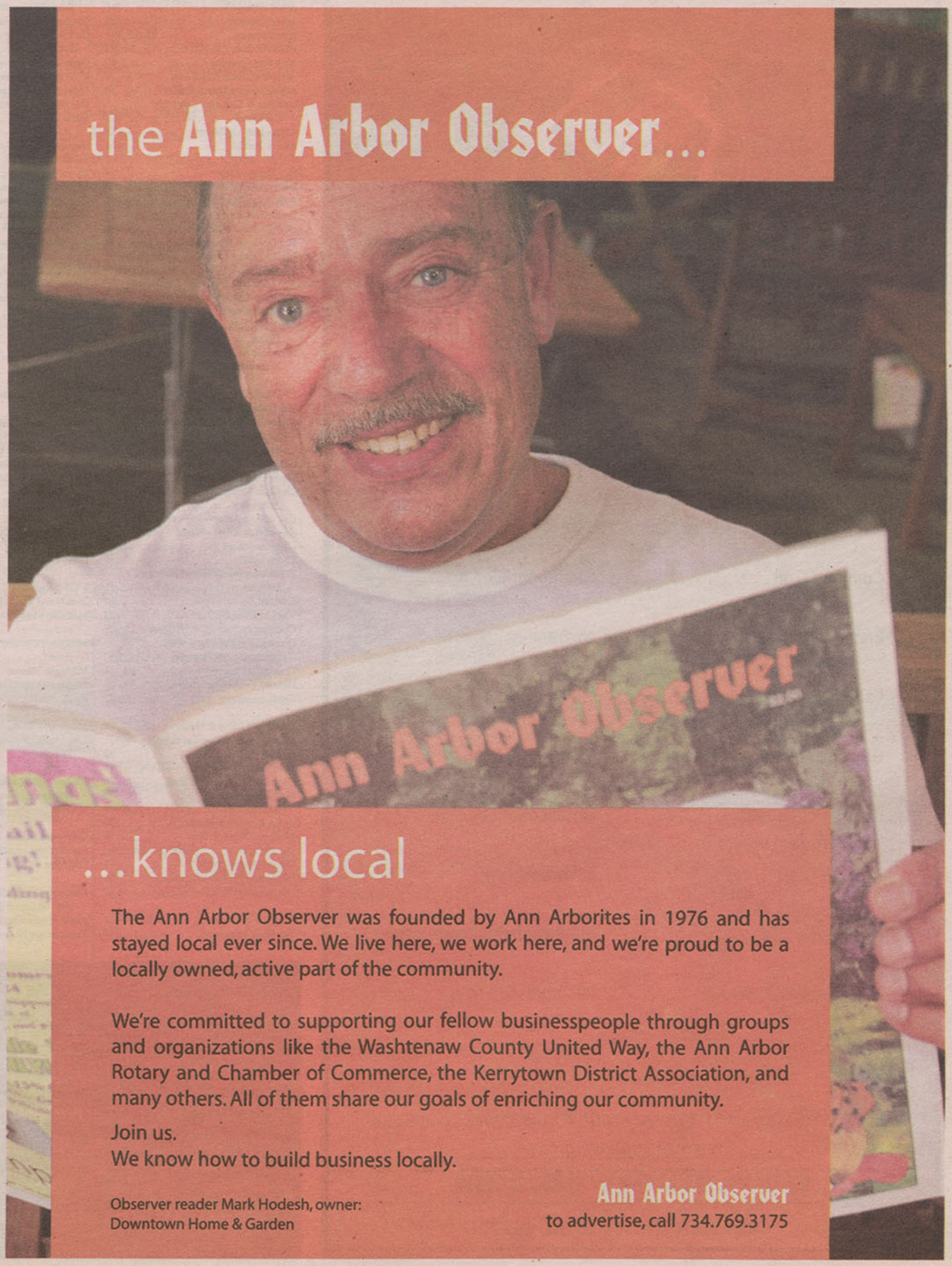
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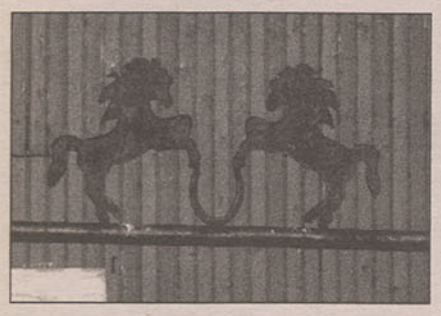
BackPage

i spy

"Welcome to Tree Town"

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

January's I Spy is the only place in Ann Arbor you'll find a Tibetan yak, African Watusi cattle, or a four-horned Jacob sheep—and to judge by the response to our contest, the animals attract far more attention than their home. "This must be a picture of Domino's petting farm," wrote Patrick O'Brien, our sole entrant. "We usually spend more time interacting with the friendly animals and less time admiring the vintage barn."



The barn was originally part of the Zeeb farm on Plymouth Road. After Tom Monaghan bought the property to build the Domino's Farms office complex, he moved the barn and several other buildings to the northeast corner of the site to create the petting farm—now a self-sufficient nonprofit operation. Open seven days a week year round, the petting farm provides contact with and education about farm animals, and has also worked with the Huron Valley Humane Society to rescue mistreated livestock. Patrick O'Brien wins a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

We received 173 entries correctly identifying January's Fake Ad for the BioLogic service (p. 67), which promised to bring germs into too-clean homes. Ann Arbor's Mary Gilligan won our random drawing; she's taking her gift certificate to the Earle.

Is clean living making you sick?

In today's antiseptic, antibacterial world, many of us are not exposed to the microbes that contribute to a healthy immune system. To help make your home a truly safe harbor, we bring the germs to you. Our BioLogic in-home agents carry strains of the common cold, strep, and influenza, jump-starting your home's natural defenses against contagious illnesses.

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BioLogic
623–7469

Many of the entries contained clever commentary about the plausibility of the ad, but something about the entry from Ypsilanti's Chuck Newman really appealed to us. "This one is truly excellent," Newman wrote.

"As one who tends to the very sick at U-M Hospital," he went on, "I am aware of some literature in the infectious disease world suggesting that exposure to an abundance of nature's microbes may indeed help maintain a healthy immune system. So, you see, your ad is not far off the mark. But would it sell?? With all the cleanliness hang-ups prevalent in our culture, I rather think not."

To enter, identify the February Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. If you look carefully at ". . . harbor, we bring . . ." in the copy for the BioLogic ad, you can make out the name of the Observer website arborweb—evidence that you're looking at the Fake Ad, not a genuine ad that just is a bit unusual. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Monday, February 11, will be eligible for the February drawings.

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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in February. See p. 39 for daily events listings and a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews.

Classical & Religious Music

- Brazilian Guitar Festival with the Assad Brothers, Badi Assad, Romero Lubambo, & Celso Machado, Feb. 1
- Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center four-hand piano concert, Feb. 2
- Vivo Sinfonietta, Feb. 2
- Accordionist Peter Soave & the Carpe Diem String Quartet, Feb. 9
- Guarneri Quartet & Johannes String Quartet, Feb. 9
- U-M Michigan Chamber Players, Feb. 10
- Violinist Christian Tetzlaff, Feb. 14
- Harpsichordist Edward Parmentier & violinist Lara Hall, Feb. 16
- Violinist Aaron Berofsky & pianist Phillip Bush, Feb. 17
- Dexter Community Band, Feb. 24

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Lisa Gray (cabaret), Feb. 1 & 2
- "Hip-Hop Congress" with Five Elements Warriors & others, Feb. 1 & 2
- Juggernaut Jug Band (jazz & blues), Feb. 1
- Special Consensus (bluegrass), Feb. 1
- Infamous Stringdusters (bluegrass), Feb. 2
- Yiddishe Cup (klezmer), Feb. 2
- Joe Henry (singer-songwriter), Feb. 4
- Eddie Shaw (blues), Feb. 7
- Mustard's Retreat (singer-songwriters), Feb. 8
- Clayton Brothers Quintet (jazz), Feb. 9
- Peter Mulvey (singer-songwriter), Feb. 9
- Turbulence (reggae), Feb. 9
- Buckwheat Zydeco (zydeco), Feb. 11
- Kate Voegele (pop-rock), Feb. 11
- Tea Leaf Green (pop-rock jam), Feb. 12
- Vampire Weekend (pop-punk), Feb. 12
- My Folky Valentine (singer-songwriters), Feb. 14
- Casting Crowns (Christian rock), Feb. 15
- Rolando Matias & His Afro-Rican Ensemble (salsa-jazz), Feb. 15
- Ahmad Jamal (jazz), Feb. 16
- John Jorgenson Quintet (Gypsy jazz), Feb. 17
- Yoav (indie pop), Feb. 17
- Ray Bonneville (blues & country-rock), Feb. 18
- John Berry (country-pop), Feb. 20
- Nicole Atkins & the Sea (pop-rock), Feb. 20
- RFD Boys (bluegrass), Feb. 22
- Mark "Mr. B" Braun, Feb. 22 & 23
- James Blunt (pop-rock), Feb. 23
- Jazzistry (jazz), Feb. 23
- Tierney Sutton (jazz), Feb. 23
- The Ragbirds (country-rock), Feb. 24
- Ken Waldman (fiddling poet), Feb. 25
- Matt Costa (pop-rock), Feb. 25
- Chris Bathgate (singer-songwriter), Feb. 26
- Nik Baertsch's Ronin (jazz), Feb. 27
- Po' Girl (alt-folk), Feb. 28
- Small Potatoes (songster duo), Feb. 29
- Bill Kirchen (dieselbilly), Feb. 29

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble (Arabic), Feb. 8
- Wu Man & the Bay Area Shawm Band (Chinese), Feb. 10
- Matt Watroba (folk) & Robert Jones (blues), Feb. 15
- Songs of the Lakes (folk), Feb. 19
- Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas (Scottish), Feb. 21
- Nutshell (Irish), Feb. 23

A Lie of the Mind

Before It Hits Home

Vino Veritas

Theater events this month include Pioneer Theater Guild's *A Lie of the Mind* February 1 and 2; the Civic Theatre's *Before It Hits Home* February 8–10, 15, and 16; and the Purple Rose's *Vino Veritas* throughout February.

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Brian Kiley, Feb. 1 & 2
- *Dandia Dhamaka* Indian dance competition, Feb. 2
- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Feb. 5
- Comic Kate Clinton, Feb. 6
- Comic Dave Dyer, Feb. 7–9
- Comic Kira Soltonavich, Feb. 14–16
- The Ark Storytelling Festival with David Holt, Ed Stivender, & others, Feb. 15 & 16
- Dance on Camera Festival, Feb. 16 & 17
- Comic Jef Brannan, Feb. 21–23
- Comic Mark Sweeney, Feb. 28 & 29

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Max and Ruby* (Theatreworks USA), Feb. 3
- *Drum Me a Story* (Wild Swan Theater), Feb. 7–9
- *Along the Tracks: Michigan and the Underground Railroad* (Wild Swan Theater), Feb. 13–16
- The Ark Storytelling Festival children's concert, Feb. 16
- *Junie B. Jones* (Theatreworks USA), Feb. 16
- *Fable-vicious* (Performance Network Children's Theater Network), Feb. 23
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra family concert with Gemini, Feb. 24

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Washtenaw Community College Mardi Gras, Feb. 2
- Chelsea American Legion Winter Carnival, Feb. 8–10
- U-M Dancesport Competition, Feb. 9
- Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club Annual Show, Feb. 16
- Spinners' Flock Winter Fleece Fair, Feb. 16
- Dawn Dance Weekend, Feb. 29

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *A Lie of the Mind* (Pioneer High School), Feb. 1 & 2
- *Big Mary* (Community High School), Feb. 1 & 2
- *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* (Greenhills School), Feb. 1 & 2
- *Stravinsky Revisited* (U-M Dance Company), Feb. 1–3
- *Vino Veritas* (Purple Rose Theatre Company), every Wed.–Sun.
- *Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins* (Performance Network), Feb. 1–3 & 7–10
- *An Evening of Scenes* (U-M Residential College Players), Feb. 1 & 2
- *Les Miserables* (Huron High School), Feb. 7–10
- *All Night Strut* (EMU Theater Department), Feb. 8–10 & 14–16
- *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Burns Park Players), Feb. 8, 9, 15, & 16
- *B-School Follies* (U-M Business School), Feb. 8
- *Before It Hits Home* (Ann Arbor Civic Theatre), Feb. 8–10, 15, & 16
- *Angels in America* (Blackbird Theater), Feb. 9 & 16
- *The Goofy Movie* (U-M Basement Arts), Feb. 9
- *The Vagina Monologues* (The Ark/SafeHouse Center), Feb. 10
- *Short Play Series* (U-M Basement Arts), Feb. 14–16
- *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (U-M Musical Theatre Studio), Feb. 14–17
- *As You Like It* (U-M Theatre Department), Feb. 14–17
- *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Concordia University), Feb. 14–17
- *Two Candles Burning* (U-M School of Music), Feb. 14–16
- *NINA materialize sacrifice* (Noism08 dance company), Feb. 15
- U-M Impact Dance, Feb. 18 & 19
- *Doubt: A Parable* (Performance Network Professional Season), Feb. 21–24, 28, & 29

Lectures & Readings

- Fiction writer Nathan Englander, Feb. 4
- Historian Peter Linebaugh, Feb. 7
- Educator Deborah Meier, Feb. 7
- Novelist Paula Nangle, Feb. 8
- *This American Life* host Ira Glass, Feb. 9
- Poet Li-Young Lee, Feb. 11
- Novelist Charles Baxter, Feb. 13
- Poet Karyna McGlynn, Feb. 18
- African American culture scholar Randall Kennedy, Feb. 20
- Poet Mary Jo Firth Gillett, Feb. 21

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Panel discussion on "From the Farm to Your Fork: Why Local Food Can Make Us Healthier, Happier, and More Secure," Feb. 18

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FEBRUARY
2008

2.01 - 2.22
EXHIBITION: A&D 4th Annual Faculty Exhibition

FACULTY EXHIBITION

A once a year opportunity to sample the range of creative work produced by School of Art & Design fulltime faculty.

Opening Reception: Friday, February 1 6:00-9:00pm

Work • Ann Arbor
306 S. State
Jean Paul Slusser Gallery
2000 Bonisteel Blvd., 1st floor

2.01 - 2.22
EXHIBITION: Transitions - The A&D First Year Graduate Show

Recent work by A&D first year graduate students.

Opening Reception: Friday, February 1 6:00-9:00pm

Warren Robbins Gallery
2000 Bonisteel Blvd., 2nd floor

2.07
PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS SERIES

PRESENTATION: Satoru Takahashi

Lecture Title: ***On the Line: Now Here and Nowhere***
How are Self, place, and communication established in communities and how can we understand the systems-within-systems of which each is composed?" Takahashi explores these issues through multi-media, large-scale works incorporating body movements, perception and memory.

Presentation 5:10pm

MICHIGAN THEATER
603 E. Liberty

2.09 - 3.22
EXHIBITION: Pathways: Consistency & Change

Demonstrating the artist/designer's evolution, this show invites MFA candidates from the UM School of Art & Design, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Eastern Michigan University, and Wayne State University to consider the theme of consistency and change in their work from past to present.

Opening Reception: Friday, February 9 6:00-10:00pm

Work • Detroit
3663 Woodward Ave

2.14
PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS SERIES

PRESENTATION: Trimpin

Lecture Title: ***A Kinetic Retrospective***
Trimpin's work explores sound, vision and movement, introducing our senses to totally new experiences. Using the latest technologies, he works with "natural" elements -- water, air, light, fire, etc. -- reconfiguring them in new and unusual ways. Supported by the UM College of Engineering,Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning, School of Information, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and the German Department.

Presentation 5:10pm

MICHIGAN THEATER
603 E. Liberty

2.13 - 2.27
EXHIBITION: Experiential Extensions

In his MFA thesis exhibition, A&D graduate student Edward S. Johnston invites viewers to witness recollections from one walk along a frequent path from his apartment building to the School of Art & Design through a series of digitally mediated animations, photographs, and 3D objects.

Opening Reception: Friday, February 16 6:00-9:00pm

Duderstadt Center
2281 Bonisteel Blvd.

2.14 / 2.15 / 2.16
PERFORMANCE: Two Candles Burning, a Chamber Opera

With Libretto and set by A&D Associate Professor Michael Rodemer, this chamber opera for string quartet and four singers explores creativity, truthfulness, and love in a three-way relationship.

Performance: Free but Limited Seating 8:00pm

Video Studio, Duderstadt Center
2281 Bonisteel Blvd.

1.11 - 2.22
EXHIBITION: Tirtza Even - Once a Wall, or Ripple Remains (work in progress)

Once A Wall, or Ripple Remains (work in progress) created by A&D Assistant Professor Tirtza Even, is a multi-channel 3D animation/video installation, and the final segment of an on-going documentary project begun in Palestine in 1998.

Residential College Art Gallery
701 East University, Ann Arbor

1.17 - 7.31
EXHIBITION: Open Secrets of Nature

Painting, drawing and collage work by A&D Associate Professor Janie Paul exploring gesture, the fragmentary nature of experience, and the natural world. Supported by the UM Institute for Research on Women and Gender, and the Women's Studies Department

Lane Hall Exhibit Space
204 S. State St.

2.22 - 3.28
EXHIBITION: Geometrically Defined

A two-person exhibition of drawings, prints and sculpture by A&D faculty Matt Shlian and Detroit artist Graem Whyte.

Opening Reception: Friday, February 22 7:00-9:00pm

Ann Arbor Art Center
117 W. Liberty

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—Linda Jarvie

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